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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Voices Support for Saddam

LD2105194891 Algiers Voice of Palestinian in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of PLO, has sent a written message to his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message was delivered to Saddam Husayn during his reception yesterday in Baghdad of brother Abu-'Ammar's special envoy, brother 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO executive committee.

The message deals with the latest developments and moves concerning the Palestinian question and the international efforts being made to bring about just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The message also reaffirmed the Palestinian people's support for sister Iraq in its current efforts to lift the unjust blockade imposed on it and to stop interference in its internal affairs.

Brother Abu-'Ammar prized the special efforts to find a peaceful and brotherly solution to the problem of the Kurds in northern Iraq in a way that safeguards Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and prevents the aggressive force from exploiting it.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn expressed his thanks and esteem for brother Abu-'Ammar and the Palestinian people for their fundammental and firm support for sister Iraq in the face of the American-Zionist-Atlantist aggression and reiterated Iraq's firm stand on the side of the Palestinain people in its just struggle for regaining its firm national rights and seting up its national independent state under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

'Important' PLO Delegation To Visit Syria

JN2105152591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] In Tunis, a source close to the PLO has said that an important Palestinian delegation will leave for Damascus next Saturday [25 May] to hold talks on normalizing relations with Syria and American-Soviet peace efforts. The visit will be the first by an official PLO delegation to Syria since 1988.

PLO Official Interviewed on Egypt's Role

NC2105171691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Tunis, 21 May (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Committee, has praised the role played by Egypt and President Husni Mubarak in the current intensive efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue.

In an interview with Samir al-'Ajuz, director of MENA's North Africa bureau, Khalid al-Hasan said that the Egyptian position is clear and committed on specific issues. He pointed out that Palestinian-Arab relations must be normalized and stressed that Egypt must be the foremost Arab country with whom Palestinian relations must be normalized.

The Palestinian official stressed the need to formulate a highly responsible and open Arab stand to heal the wounds and restore "normal relations" to confront the international position on the Palestinian issue. He added: "I believe that a basic and positive Egyptian stance on the Palestinian issue exists."

Khalid al-Hasan called on the region's countries to quickly forget the Gulf crisis and regain inter-Arab solidarity in order to safeguard all the Arab countries.

The Palestinian official praised the noticeable progress in the U.S. stance on attaining a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He noted, however, that "we cannot say that the U.S. is serious about reaching a solution based on all the resolutions of international legitimacy."

Khalid al-Hasan said he "does not believe that the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations will exclude either party."

He asserted that Syria must be part of any political settlement in the region. He said he hopes to see a Palestinian delegation visit Damascus soon and added that it is in the interest of both the Palestinians and Syria to have normal relationships.

It is recalled that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Cairo on the sidelines of the last week's Arab League meeting in Cairo.

PLO Sources on 'Arafat-Bessmertnykh Talks

PM2005140191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 May 91 p 3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "'Arafat-Bessmertnykh Geneva Talks Focused on Issues of Legitimacy and Palestinian Representation"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has pointed out that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh focused on two fundamental questions: first, a review of the progress achieved toward implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy as a basis for a peace conference, and guarantees for that conference's continuation until implementation of the international resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Second, discussion of the issue of the parties to participate in the peace conference, including PLO participation as well as the form of that participation. Al-Najjab pointed out that these talks were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere within the framework of continuing consultation between the Soviet and Palestinian leaderships.

During the talks the Palestinian side expressed its positive attitude toward Soviet and U.S. efforts, as well as those

made by other states, to achieve peace in the Middle East and the establishment of a national government for the Palestinian people based on the resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

But Palestinian circles close to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that in his talks with the Soviet foreign minister, Yasir 'Arafat focused on three fundamental issues. First, independent Palestinian representation from inside and outside the occupied territories so as to ensure a PLO role in Palestinian representation. The Palestinian proposal stresses that Palestinian representation should be from inside and outside, not in accordance with Mr. Baker's concept, which confines it to a delegation from inside only.

The circles said that the PLO may agree to a unified Arab delegation, provided that that is an element that facilitates the convening of the peace conference on the basis of UN resolutions and provided that that delegation is formed on the basis of an Arab delegation for each state individually—an independent delegation that has its own independent authority as well.

The circles regarded the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation idea as a deliberate attempt to torpedo an independent Palestinian delegation, drive a wedge into Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and convene a conference not based on the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy. The sources pointed out that this issue was fundamental and pivotal to Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] recent discussions in Amman with the Jordanian leadership, as both sides were clearly aware of some people's attempts to create Palestinian-Jordanian problems. And the Palestinian delegation is anxious to maintain coordination and not to follow the labyrinths of such problems.

Second, any conference on peace in the Middle East must be based on the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue.

This is why Yasir 'Arafat sought during his meeting in Geneva with the Soviet foreign minister to obtain guarantees from the Soviet Union and, if possible, from the Security Council to ensure that international legitimacy will be at the basis of a conference.

Third, 'Arafat emphasized to Bessmertnykh the need for the proposed peace conference to be effective and to arrive at the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Thus, any phases should be linked so that it will be clear to all parties that the conference's aim is to establish an independent Palestinian state, that is, to guarantee the right to self-determination and the realization of UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict—particularly resolutions 191 and 194 on the right to repatriation and the rights of Palestinian refugees.

And it seems that the Palestinian leadership emphasized at the recent Geneva meeting the question of guaranteeing the linkage of the various phases of the solution, thus guaranteeing the continuity of the peace conference and ensuring that it is not merely a ceremonial conference. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Minister Denies Intent To Produce Nuclear Weapon

LD2105140191 Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Algiers, May 21 (APS)—"Algeria does not contemplate the manufacture of a nuclear bomb. Its objective is the mastering of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes" stated Monday Cherif Hadj-glimane, minister delegate to research and technology, at a TV programme.

The mediatic fuss aroused in this regard by the Western press, noted the minister, is aimed in fact at nothing but preventing Algeria from mastering nuclear technology. "Why at this very moment?" wondered he, in the sense that this project is not secret. It is obvious that this campaign against Algeria stems from its foreign policy. Furthermore, the minister pointed out that China was also aimed since it benefits from the most favoured nation clause.

Answering a question about the choice of Ain Ouessera in such, and potential effects of this reactor on civil populations, the minister pointed out that the criteria of such a choice are absolutely scientific. Ain Ouessera is the less seismical zone of Algeria and enjoys a sufficient quantity of water for the cooling of the reactor, ensuring thus the viability of this installation that does not have any repercussion on environment nor does it alterate sources of water supply.

About the choice of China and not another partner, the minister noted that Algeria has got through with many Western countries (France, Britain, the U.S., Germany etc.) but some of them attempted to exert political pressures on Algeria while other countries asked for huge summs of money, indeed, they even tried to delay the project. As concerns China, it asked that the project would serve peaceful purposes and this is what we agreed on since the price was reasonable.

French Foreign Minister To Visit 24 May

LD1705203391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will be in Algiers on 24 May. The spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry who announced this stressed the importance of Franco-Algerian relations.

Egypt

Ghali Voices 'Regret' over Gandhi's Assassination

NC2205051991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign liaison and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, has expressed Egypt's regret over the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. Ghali said: We are saddened by this painful event. The death of Rajiv Gandhi is a great loss. He was among the Indian leaders who played a major role in consolidating democracy in that country.

Dr. Ghali expressed the hope that the assassination will not affect democracy and national unity in India.

Omani Minister on Saudi Relations, Gulf Security

JN2105203391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 21 May (WAKH)—Mr. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, says that the custodian of the two holy mosques and Sultan Qabus have reviewed relations between the two countries, especially because the two leaders have always had sincere and cordial relations, reflecting an eagerness to promote the joint interests of the Omani and Saudi people. The two leaders expressed full satisfaction with the development of bilateral ties and gave instructions for this policy to continue, he added.

The two leaders also reviewed the political situation in the Gulf within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the relations among Arab leaders, and the future of cooperation among Arab countries. They drew many conclusions from the Kuwait-Iraq crisis, the developments that accompanied Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and the reasons behind all these events. [passage omitted]

Concerning security arrangements in the region, Bin-'Alawi said there is an agreement in principle that new methods should be used to ensure the necessary security in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

He said the security aspect is not a political subject on the table. We have gone past this stage and moved to the technical part, which is left to military commanders. He explained that technical teams and military specialists in the Gulf states continue to study all facts, and that the results will be forwarded to their majesties and highnesses, the members of the GCC Supreme Council to decide the best options for the GCC.

Concerning the formation of the nucleus for an Arab force with the participation of Egypt and Syria, as stipulated by the Damascus Declaration, Bin-'Alawi stressed that the issue is still in order, adding that this nucleus already exists in the political and psychological sense to face major crises.

This nucleus, he said, is not designed to show armies in parades and special events; the aim is to underscore the political will to prevent future Arab action from causing disasters. He said when the eight countries decided to liaise among themselves, they wanted to demonstrate commitment to a defensive system with a view to confronting crises.

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said the GCC countries believe that the Damascus Declaration is the first necessary step in Arab action. He said the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria have a common strong desire to confront everything that might endanger the Arab nation's

higher interests. These countries adopted similar positions, and it is natural for this accord to translate into common institutions, he said. These principles, he added, can serve as a guide for common Arab action in the future.

Bin-'Alawi said the general principles agreed on in the Damascus Declaration are being implemented, and if there is need for additional steps, they will certainly be taken and announced in the future.

Concerning the role of Oman and the GCC in the efforts to heal the rift in the Arab world, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said his majesty the sultan and the custodian of the two holy mosques discussed this matter in detail in light of the various facts associated with the problem. Certainly, he added, the Arab countries made many major mistakes—not understanding the responsibility or appreciating the magnitude of the threat to higher Arab interests. The Gulf leaders look at the issue from a broad perspective, giving importance to higher Arab interests, he said. But action to ensure these interests, he added, cannot be taken overnight. At the same time, lessons must be learned, and we believe that every Arab country is now assessing the positions it adopted.

On his majesty's visit to Egypt, Bin-'Alawi said the visit comes in light of the special and distinguished relations between the Omani and Egyptian leadership and people. He said Oman has full confidence in the position of Egypt, which is a pioneer Arab country with the heavy tasks of a leader. The Egyptian leaders, consequently, cannot but act to serve higher Arab interests, he said, stressing that there exist no differences between the Gulf states and Egypt concerning overall Arab action or Arab views toward the various issues. [passage omitted]

Former Prime Minister on Syria, Peace Process

TA1705190491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1707 GMT 17 May 91

[Interview with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil by special correspondent Gil Sadan in Cairo "this week"—recorded in English with Hebrew subtitles; processed from English]

[Text] [Sadan] Dr. Khalil, why does Syria insist on UN involvement in the peace talks? If it were up to you, wouldn't you suggest that they should just drop the whole thing and sit down at a table and talk peace with Israel?

[Khalil] Negotiation has to be bilateral because the Golan Heights issue, for instance, is completely different from the Palestine issue, and in our negotiation on the Sinai—we were speaking about, you know, withdrawing from the Sinai and then concluding a peace agreement with Israel. Of course, as Egypt is a sovereign country and Israel is a sovereign country, the problem of Sinai only affects Egypt as a sovereign country, and we cannot really accept any other delegation to come and say: well, you have to conduct your negotiations about Sinai in a certain way. So, I really stipulate that the same thing would happen about the Golan Heights. The Golan Heights only affects Syria and nobody else, and as Syria is a sovereign country, they have to negotiate and accept the conditions between them and the Israelis concerning the Golan Heights.

[Sadan] What you are actually saying is that formalities should be dropped and that all the parties concerned should sit together around one table and just discuss peace. Isn't that so?

[Khalil] Yes. I am saying that formalities should be forgotten, and I am saying that the most important thing is to sit and negotiate because the negotiations themselves gain momentum and, you know, the parties move toward an agreement when they feel that each side is keen to arrive at an agreement.

[Sadan] When you were first involved in the peace efforts, the peace initiative of President al-Sadat, did you at the time anticipate the state of relations between Israel and Egypt as it is today, or are you disappointed today?

[Khalil] No, I am never disappointed, and from my own point of view I think the peace agreement was a breakthrough, and I think that the peace agreement has existed for more than 10 years now.

[Sadan] Has it borne the fruits that you expected?

[Khalil] And I think it has borne important fruits. At least look at the security issue. Look at the future relations between Egypt and Israel.

[Sadan] But we are not really friends, we are neighbors.

[Khalil] No, I don't agree with you in saying that. I can say that we have passed through, really years when, for instance, Israel attacked Lebanon. We can't say that we were happy about that, and we can't say that we have ever approved that, and we never expected that from the Israeli side. But let us forget about the past, and let us say that we at the present time have a peace agreement that survived, you know, terrible conditions in the Middle East, and that have proved to be a positive step towards the changing of the Arab attitude in the Arab world towards Israel. And this in itself is a very positive point in the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement.

Libya

Al-Bishari Receives Sudanese Foreign Minister

LD2005175191 Tripoli JANA in English 1701 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, Al Maa [May] 20, JANA-Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—Ibrahim al-Bishari, the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, met today 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister of sisterly Sudan, within the framework of completing the declaration of integration between the two sisterly countries and in accordance with the second article of that declaration which asserts the importance of unifying the vision and the assessments concerning the various political stances and the joint coordination between the diplomatic representation missions of both countries abroad.

The meeting discussed the implementation of the integration declaration especially with regards to the foreign

policy and the coordination of stances in issues of mutual interest in order to achieve the goals and the interests of the Arab nation and to enhance its security and stability.

They also reviewed and exchanged views and ideas about the fields included in the integration particularly in relation to Arab, African and international matters. Emphasis was placed on the importance of joint moves and unified stances towards matters of mutual interst between the delegations of both countries at international and regional meetings, gatherings and conferences.

Agreement was reached that continued consultation and exchange of visits must take place on all levels in order to serve the policies of both countries and consolidate the unity steps for which the integration declaration was made.

Emphasis was also placed during this meeting on the importance of bilateral action to strengthen the Arab League and to consolidate Arab solidarity in this period the Arab nation is passing through. Great Jamahiriyah will work towards achieving these goals [as received] by cooperation with all the Arab countries to arrive at the creation of a comprehensive Arab action to strengthen and consolidate the league.

JANA came to know that agreement was reached to set up free sub-committees to draft and prepare work programmes on all matters of joint coordination in political, economic and technical fields.

Jabir Arrives in Sanaa for Anniversary

LD2105202691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 21 May (JANA)—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir and the delegation accompanying him arived in Sanaa this afternoon to take part in the Yemeni Arab people's celebration of the first anniversary of the union of the two parts of Yemen and the establishment of the Yemeni Republic. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Addresses Members of Saharan Council

LD2005153191 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Guelmim, May 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II, accomanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, presided Saturday evening here a meeting with members of the Special Consultative Council for the Saharan Affairs, said a Communique of the Ministry of the Interior and Information.

During the meeting, the sovereign delivered a speech in which he recalled the durability of the allegiance bonds that unite the Sahrawi populations with the Alaouite throne, underlining, however, that Morocco which is respecting international legality and law wishes that these secular links be confirmed by a referendum of which the result will be irreversible, the communique said.

King Hassan II also expressed firm belief that the Moroccan people will undoubtedly take up this new challenge and show its cohesion and the firmness of the links uniting the population of all the kingdom's regions.

The meeting was attended by Premier Azeddine Laraki, speaker of the House of Representatives (parliament) Ahmed Osman, advisers of the Sovereign Ahmed Reda Guedira, Ahmed Bensouda and Mohamed Aouad, in addition to other members of the government and personalities.

King Hassan Returns From Saharan Meeting

LD2005153591 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Agadir, May 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II returned here Sunday ending a four day visit to the Sahara where he announced the birth of the Saharan province of Assa-Zag.

To meet the huge needs of the population in matters of roads, hospitals, schools, jobs and water supplies, the government will be looking into the host of projects required for the enhancement of the Assa-Zag area, the sovereign told the crowd which cheered his arrival in Assa. A governor will soon be appointed to see to the implementation and follow up of projects and measures adopted to make the newly created province a model of development. He recalled a first meeting in Fes when he received, years ago, delegates of the Ait Youssa and Akka tribes saying these were the first ones to "withstand the shocks of the Sahara war with the courage, firmness and faith they have been known for for centuries. At that time, the sovereign went on, [words indistinct] to make all necessary arrangements to spare you the dangers of war and even distributed rifles to the population the way our ancestors did with sabres. The symbolic move was meant to further strengthen the bonds uniting these tribes to the kingdom, he said.

King Hassan II, accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, had visited Tan-Tan, Guelmim, Smara, Assa and neighbouring areas where he was met with a hero's welcome. The populations which thronged the streets hailed the sovereign and claimed their Moroccan identity and faithfulness to the oath of allegiance binding them to the Kingdom.

Sudan

Prime Minister Bashir Meets Iranian Delegation

LD2005094691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] During the third day of their visit to Sudan, Mr. Khattami, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, and his accompanying delegation, met Sudanese president 'Umar Bashir yesterday. The Central News Unit reports that at the meeting, General Bashir, pointing to relations between the two countries, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan must expand their relations so that they may overcome difficulties and confront their common enemies. Stressing the importance of the Islamic Republic

of Iran in the Islamic world, he expressed his disappointment over the presence of America in various Islamic countries.

Plan To Reorganize Information Ministry Approved

EA2005133291 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers in its meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, approved the plan for rearranging the Ministry of Culture and Information. Under this plan, the Ministry will be converted into four organs consisting of the minister; the executive office; a National Council for Culture and Information, including a number of corporations to be managed by the administrative councils whose executive affairs are to be headed by secretary generals; and the establishment of the General Secretariat to take over coordination between these organs.

Mr. Abdallahi Muhammad Ahmad, culture and information minister, clarified that the plan aims at rearranging information planning and at rearranging the Ministry in a way that makes it able to do its job in a more revolutionary way than it does now. He added that the plan transfers the Ministry's headquarters to a technical organ in order to reduce the general policies, transfers, and follow-ups. At the national level, the questions of particularization and execution are to be transferred to the administrative councils and the corporations from which they are formed. He said the plan defines a general strategy for the Ministry and separate strategies for all the administrative and executive directives so as to make cultural and information work proceed from clear considerations.

The Council has also approved the plan of the laws for corporations belonging to the ministry and they are: the National Corporation for Information and Technical Production; the National Corporation for Culture, Arts, and Cultural Services; the National Corporation for Archeology and Museums; the Sudan Academy for Information Training; SUNA; and the Radio Corporation and Television Corporation, which are to comprise the General Union for Radio and Television Corporation.

Tunisia

Foreign Financing of Al-Nahdah Movement Reported

NC2205101891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tunis, 22 May (MENA)—Responsible sources have told the MENA correspondent that elements of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, which is behind the recent sabotage and violence in Tunisia, received resistance training in special camps in Afghanistan. The sources said that foreign agencies are financing the al-Nahdah Movement, including the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front.

The same sources denied reports of the arrest of Abu-Rishah, minister of youth during former President Bourguiba's rule, and of the minister's link to the attempt to topple the regime in Tunisia, saying that these reports are absolutely groundless.

Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel is scheduled to hold a news conference in Tunis today about this month's sabotage and violence in universities and secondary institutions.

Western Sahara

Moroccan King's Visit Seen as 'Inopportune'

LD2105211991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] In the context of the developments concerning the Sahraoui question following the UN decision to hold a referendum on the self-determination of the Sahraoui people, our colleague Azzedine Tahara from the international channel has interviewed the ambassador of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic on this matter and asked his views on the Moroccan king's decision to visit the Western Sahara. The ambassador had this to say.

[Begin recording of ambassador] My comment on this visit is that it was inopportune under the present circumstances, because the Security Council had adopted a position with a view to holding a referendum in western Sahara. The UN General Assembly then ratified this resolution. The operation is not simple. The secretary general and the UN body are now making a great effort in order to ensure the implementation of this resolution. We Sahraouis believe that this visit was inopportune while the UN secretary general was preparing the referendum. This referendum has a program action which will come in stages.

Naturally, the referendum in the Sahara is a voting and election operation, but in the secretary general's program there is a specific stage called the stage of the electoral campaign. Such a stage remains remote. This is what makes me say that King Hassan II's visit was inopportune in the present stage. [end recording]

Kuwait

Sentences Postponed at Iraqi Collaboration Trial

LD2105125791 London KUNA in Arabic 1124 GMT 21 May 91

[By Walid al-Sari' and Anwar al-Gharib]

[Text] Kuwait, 21 May (KUNA)—At its session this morning, the martial court in Kuwait postponed until 1 June the sentencing of a group of male and female defendants accused of collaborating with the authorities of the Iraqi regime by issuing the so-called AL-NIDA paper during the occupation of Kuwait. The sentencing was postponed in response to a request filed by the general prosecutor and the defendants' lawyer.

Chief justice of the court, Judge Muhammad Bin-Naji, had charged the 24 defendents with communicating with the occupying state, managing a journalistic institution to justify the occupation of Kuwait, disseminating propaganda for the enemy, assassinating the Kuwaiti people's morale, spreading confusing propaganda supportive of the Iraqi enemy, circulating false rumors and statements to spread panic and fear among the citizens, and rendering services in return for material rewards. The majority of the defendants denied the charges against them, although they admitted working for that paper. They said they were forced to work at the paper under pressure and threats from the enemy and the first defendant in the case who is still at large, Ahmad Fadi al-Husayni.

Ministers Inspect Damage to Faylakah Island

LD1405135591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 May 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The public works minister pointed out that there is a preliminary memorandum of agreement between the housing minister and his Egyptian counterpart on Egypt's participation in the reconstruction of Faylakah; and God willing, all the ministries will pool their efforts, and with the help of all the brothers in Kuwait, the Gulf, the Arab states, and the sister and friendly states, this island will be rebuilt. [passage omitted]

The housing minister, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-'Usfur, said that this inspection tour of Faylakah Island was arranged to assess the extent of the damage. He added that the island was virtually destroyed, especially the power and water plant, the post office, and the communications and fire stations. All the facilities need to be rebuilt, in addition to the homes of the citizens, some of which have been completely destroyed. Others had their contents stolen and their facilities plundered.

He told journalists that a common body including all the ministries providing services will be set up to give a comprehensive and full assessment of the losses and damage caused by the treacherous Iraqi occupation forces. He added that "with regard to the visit of the Egyptian minister of housing and reconstruction [as received], we signed a memorandum of understanding giving the broad lines for cooperation in the reconstruction of Kuwait. This will be one of the examples of cooperation between Kuwait and Egypt." He indicated in this respect that so far the form of the agreement and its value have not been defined and this will only be done after the extent of the damage has been assessed. [passage omitted]

Press To Resume Publishing in 'Next Few Weeks'

LD1205120191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub said in a telephone conversation with the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today that the Kuwaiti press will resume publication from Kuwait in the next few weeks, after surmounting certain technical and material obstacles resulting from the destruction, sabotage, and theft of the machinery and press installations by the Iraqi regime.

Dr. al-Ya'qub pointed out that meetings are being held with chief editors and officials to speed up the resumed publication of all Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines.

Commenting on references in the Western press concerning the government reaching an initial agreement with the Kuwaiti opposition to establish a dialogue between them, the information minister said that the doors and hearts of officials in Kuwait are open. Any citizen can have a dialogue with the officials.

Dr. al-Ya'qub refused to comment on reports circulated by the Western press concerning the resumption of oil exports in the coming days. He said he cannot comment on such a subject at the present time. The information minister affirmed that Kuwait refuses to establish any relations at any level with the present regime in Iraq. Kuwait's conflict is not with the Iraqi people but with the regime. The Iraqi and Kuwaiti people are the victims of this regime's misdeeds.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said that the government's objective, which it is trying to reach via its contacts with international organizations, is to secure the release of well over 4,000 Kuwaiti prisoners. He called on all states and Arab and international organizations to pressure the Iraqi regime to compel it to release the prisoners.

He affirmed that Kuwait construction operations will rely on the national Kuwaiti, Gulf, Arab, and foreign labor force in carrying out its program on the basis that Kuwait's doors are open to all honest people who want to help. This is Kuwait's policy, which the government is following in its dealings with states and nations.

Plans To Rebuild Kuwaiti Airways Announced

LD1705150991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait: Ahmad al-Bishari, chairman of the board of director of Kuwaiti Airways, has announced that the company is planning to purchase a number of Boeing and Airbus aircraft to replace the theft and losses that the Kuwaiti air fleet suffered after the invasion.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT published today, he said that the main offices will be moved to Kuwait at

the end of next month, instead of using the two temporary offices in Cairo and London.

He stressed that the Iraqi regime systematically plundered the company's properties and the Kuwaiti air fleet. He pointed out that the list of stolen items included 15 aircraft, full contents of the spare parts' depots, engines, technical equipment and maintenance equipment. This is in addition to ground equipment such as buses, [word indistinct], tractors, and the computer center, which had been modernized in recent years at great cost. [passage omitted]

Iraq Returns Civilian Airliner Held in Jordan

LD2005215691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2055 GMT 20 May 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] The Iraqi regime has returned a Kuwaiti civilian airliner to Kuwait. The plane was kept by the regime in Jordan during the spiteful invasion. This was announced by the UN assistant secretary-general, who added that Kuwait and Iraq are still in disagreement regarding the amount of money that the Iraqi regime should pay to Kuwait.

Iraqi 'Pillage' of University Reported

LD1705224491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The head of Kuwait University, Dr. al-Shu'ayb 'Abdallah al-Shu'ayb, has revealed that the damage sustained by the university as a result of the tyrannical Iraqi invasion had reached 468 million Kuwaiti dinars. In an interview with the [London-based] SAWT AL-KUWAYT published today, he said that all the university's contents were subjected to an organized operation of plunder with the participation of lecturers from Iraqi universities.

Dr. al-Shu'ayb announced that the university will accept only Kuwaitis and Gulf nationals this year and that studies would start on 1 September. He also talked about the intensive efforts being made to replace the equipment and books in the various faculties, but added that the higher studies would not begin this year. [sentence as heard]

He have details on the theft of equipment, books, and contents of the university by the Iraqi authorities of occupation. He said in this respect that some lecturers from Iraqi universities, who are supposed to show a minimum of morality, had taken part in the plundering of Kuwait University. He added that out of the 468 million Kuwaiti dinars of losses, 183 million represented the value of the equipment and furniture and 285 million represented salaries paid with no work done. Dr. al-Shu'ayb indicated that the authorities of occupation not only stole the laboratories, equipment, machines, furniture, books, and research materials, but they also broke and damaged everything else. He deplored the participation of lecturers from Iraqi universities in the pillage.

Qatar

Amir Sends Messages to Presidents Ozal, Perez

JN2005144391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Doha, 20 May (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has sent a written message to Turkish President Turgut Ozal in response to the message his highness recently received from him.

QNA said that the message, which was brought by the Turkish president's envoy, deals with the situation in the region and means to ensure security and stability in it, in addition to suppporting and entrenching friendship and cooperation between the two countries, especially in the trade and economic sectors.

The Qatari amir also sent a written message to President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela in response to the letter his highness recently received from him.

The news agency said that the letter, which was sent through diplomatic channels, deals with the current situation in the oil markets due to the Gulf crisis and the required consultations and joint coordination.

Turkish Minister Interviewed on Regional Security

JN2005151591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Doha, 20 May (WAKH)—Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi has expressed his country's support for the current efforts to establish security and stability in the Gulf.

In an interview with Qatari AL-RAYAH published today, Celebi, who is visiting Doha, expressed Turkey's belief that economic cooperation among the region's states will have a large role to play in establishing security and stability in the region.

The minister spoke of the repercussions of the Gulf crisis on his country. He said that the Gulf crisis had many negative effects on the Turkish economy, pointing out that the losses of the Turkish economy as a result of the crisis are estimated at about $10 billion.

He said that Turkey would not reopen the Iraqi oil pipeline through its land until the economic blockade resolutions against Iraq were lifted. He stressed, however, the importance of Turkish-Iraqi relations.

Replying to a question on the dimensions of the [word indistinct] water project proposed by the Ankara government, which plans to lay freshwater pipelines from Turkey to the Gulf states. Celebi said that this project is one of the elements that can effectively enhance economic relations between the region's states and Turkey and help establish the required security, stability, and peace in the region in the future.

He denied the possibility of exploiting this project in a manner that would threaten the security of this region by becoming dependent on the importation of water, which is

a vital element. He stressed that the project will not be used to threaten the region's security, but rather it will be an element helping its stability.

Signs Cooperation Minutes; Departs

JN2005152691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Doha, 20 May (WAKH)—Turkish State Minister Isin Celebi and his delegation left Doha at noon today after a three-day official visit to the State of Qatar.

Earlier today, the Turkish minister and Qatari Economy and Trade Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani signed minutes of the first Qatari-Turkish joint committee meetings, held in Doha over two days.

According to the minutes, the two sides noted with satisfaction the studies so far on transporting natural gas from Qatar to Europe by means of pipelines through Turkey. Turkey also expressed readiness to buy Qatari natural gas, whether that passing through the pipelines or liquefied gas.

The two sides also agreed to form technical teams to make feasibility studies for joint petrochemical industry ventures in Turkey.

The Turkish side said it is prepared to cooperate with Qatar in investment in small and medium projects, which was welcomed by Qatar.

The two sides also expressed readiness to cooperate in joint ventures in tourism and investment They also agreed to exchange data and expertise in agriculture, fishery, and animal husbandry, and to train Qataris in these fields.

The two sides agreed to encourage the concerned parties to study the establishment of a joint shipping company for land, sea, and air transport.

They expressed willingness to implement the water pipeline project proposed by the Turkish side.

It was agreed to hold the second meeting of the Qatari-Turkish joint committee in Ankara, Turkey.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Receives UK's Tom King

LD2105215991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, 21 May, SPA—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, received his excellency the British defense secretary, Mr. Tom King, and the delegation accompanying him this evening. [passage omitted] The two sides discussed a number of topics related to cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom in the military sphere.

Border Agreement With Oman Ratified

LD2105175391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1425 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh 21 May SPA—The ratification documents of the international borders agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman and its two annexes, which were signed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Majesty Sultan Qabus, the sultan of Oman on 21 March 1990, were exchanged today at the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry.

The exchange was carried out by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and His Excellency Yusuf Bin-Alawi 'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Sultan of Oman Cables Thanks to King Fahd

LD2105222391 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, May 21, SPA—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman left Riyadh Tuesday after a visit to the Kingdom during which he had talks with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Sultan Qabus sent a cable to King Fahd on his departure today.

In his cable, Sultan Qabus expressed his thanks to King Fahd and the Saudi Government and people for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation.

Sultan Qabus also expressed deep satisfaction with the outcome of the talks he had with King Fahd and the identical views they shared on all issues of mutual interest.

Sultan Qabus noted the bright progress and accomplishments achieved by the Kingdom under the wise leadership of King Fahd.

The sultan expressed best wishes to King Fahd's health and more progress and development to the Kingdom.

Pakistani Official Arrives in Riyadh, Notes Ties

LD1805205291 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, May 18, SPA—Secretary General of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry Mohammad Akram Zaki has expressed deep satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Mr Zaki was speaking to reporters upon arrival here today on a visit to the Kingdom. He cited with appreication the Kingdom's constant concern to enhance the bilateral ties between the two countries and to serve the best interests of the two peoples and that of the entire Islamic nation at large.

The Pakistani official cited his country's stance towards the vicious Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and said Pakistan has fully backed the Kingdom's wise measures to deal with the crisis.

United Arab Emirates

Turkish Minister Notes Results of Visit; Departs

JN1805111591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 May 91

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 18 May (WAKH)—Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi and his delegation left Abu Dhabi this morning after a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. [passage omitted]

Celebi held a joint news conference with UAE Economy and Trade Minister Sa'id Ghabbash after signing the minutes of the Joint Economic Committee meeting this morning. He stressed that his talks with UAE officials were cordial, constructive, and sincere. He said the meeting of the Joint Economic Committee achieved important results that would play a major role in bolstering and promoting relations between the two countries, especially in economy and trade. [passage omitted]

For his part, Mr. Sa'id Ghabbash said that the meeting gave rise to important results and boosted ties with Turkey, especially in economy and trade.

He said the meeting provided official and private sectors in both countries with a chance to advance relations between them, particularly in promoting trade and joint investment.

Mr. 'Ghabbash expressed appreciation for the position of the Turkish Government on the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Voters in Favor of New Constitution

JN2105055691 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The Higher Committee for Referendum on the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen issued a statement yesterday evening on the results of the popular referendum on the Constitution held during the period 15-16 May, announcing that the results of the referendum were as follows:

First, the number of registered voters throughout the Republic of Yemen as of 30 April 1991, according to the reports submitted by major committees in the governorates, totaled 1,886,310, the same number announced on 1 May 1991. The final total of registered voters throughout the Republic totaled 1,890,646 according to the final reports submitted by major committees, as signed by the judges of the courts of first instancy and appeal and approved by the referendum agencies and centers, reflecting an increase of 4,336 voters.

Second, the number of those who voted during the period 15-16 May totaled 1,364,788 voters, 72.2 percent of the grand total of those registered in referendum rosters.

Third, the number of those who voted in favor of the Constitution totaled 1,341,247—98.3 percent of the total of those who took part in the referendum.

Fourth, the number of those who voted against the Constitution totaled 20,409—1.5 percent of the total of those who expressed their opinions in the referendum.

Fifth, the number of the legally invalid referendum cards totaled 3,132—0.2 percent of those who took part in the referendum.

In light of this result, and in accordance with Article 29 of the referendum regulations, the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen is considered approved by popular referendum by the announced overwhelming majority, which reflects 98.3 percent. This is a high percentage that exceeds the absolute majority spelled out in referendum regulations.

Opposition Conference Reported in Planning Stage

JN2105180991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 May 91

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran]

[Text] Our radio has learned that intensive contacts are currently taking place among several Iraqi opposition groups under Riyadh's special patronage to prepare for an expanded Iraqi opposition conference which Saudi Arabia intends to hold in Mecca or Cairo. The conference could culminate in the proclamation of a government-in-exile that would include figures and personalities from all Iraqi groups and nationalities.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan told our radio that Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, had sent a delegation to talk the Islamic Movement's guide, Shaykh 'Uthman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, into joining the Baghdad negotiations. According to the same sources, the Movement rejected the offer in the strongest terms and is now preparing for an expanded Islamic conference in Tehran to precede any general meeting of the Iraqi opposition to announce new Islamic action principles in order to avoid repeating the experiment of the joint action committee which emanated from the Damascus conference.

PLO's Hurani Meets With Information Minister

JN2005123591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 MAY (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi met here today with PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Discusses 'Arafat Message

JN2105074991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0702 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said that the content of the message he conveyed to President Saddam Husayn from his brother President Yasir 'Arafat affirms that Iraq and Palestine make up a single team in the battle of defiance being waged by the Arab nation.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, he added that the Palestinian people view Iraq's recuperation as an asset to their steadfastness.

Al-Hurani indicated that the Palestinian revolution views the successes that have been achieved during the dialogue currently under way between the Iraqi leadership and a delegation of Kurdish parties as an enhancement of Iraqi national unity and confirmation of the age old Arab-Kurdish brotherhood. These successes also contribute to the failure of colonialist interference and rob external forces, which are attempting to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, of the pretexts they are using, Hurani added.

The PLO executive committee member pointed out that the PLO is well aware that the U.S. Administration seeks to exploit the results of the anti-Iraq aggression to impose total hegemony on the region, to ensure the continued imposition of "Israeli" presence through this hegemony, and to increase Tel Aviv's influence in the region.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received 'Abdallah Hurani yesterday.

RCC Restricts Sale of Commodities to State

JN2105150891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1317 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—A decision issued by the Revolution Command Council today says the state alone can market wheat, barley, rice, and corn, and at the prices it decides.

The decision states that any one caught monopolizing or trading in these commodities will be sentenced to maximum 15 years imprisonment.

This decision rescinds two decisions in this respect issued on 1 December and 20 January.

Saddam Said Purging al-'Amarah Party, Security

NC2105201891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] In a desperate attempt to rebuild its repressive apparatus which was demolished by the popular revolution, Saddam's regime has carried out purges in the ranks of its henchmen in al-'Amarah district.

According to our sources, the regime is conducting an extensive purge in the ranks of the Ba'th Party and other organs of repression in al-'Amarah. The sources added that a high-level committee has been formed in the city on Saddam's instructions. Its tasks are to punish the 'Aflaqi [Ba'th] Party members and employees of the other organs of Saddam's regime, including the security and general intelligence services and the military intelligence service on the charge of failing to suppress the rebellious masses in the district, particularly its chief city.

City residents have asserted in statements to our radio that these measures are continuing and that more than 40 'Aflaqi personnel have been arrested in various parts of the district and are undergoing interrogation.

A spokesman for the popular committee has commented on these arrests, saying that this desperate campaign is an attempt by Saddam to discover the identities of some revolutionaries operating within the regime's organs. This clearly demonstrates that the humiliated tyrant feels that his departments have been fully infiltrated by our revolutionaries.

Sources Deny Troops Massing in Lebanon

TA2205050291 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] Military sources yesterday denied foreign press reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was massing men and materiel in the area of the security zone.

Lebanese media have been speculating about possible Israeli interference with today's signing of the Syrian-Lebanese pact.

Unofficial sources here did confirm a high level of alert for both IDF and South Lebanese Army troops in recent days—based on reports that terrorist factions had infiltrated south with tacit Syrian approval. [passage omitted]

Levi Accuses Shamir of Damaging Peace Process

TA2105165191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Levi today came out with a scathing attack on the Prime Minister's Office. He claimed that Shamir's office caused serious damage to the peace process. Levi made these allegations in response to Knesset Member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who claimed that the Prime Minister's Office was waging a campaign of slander, calumny, and ridicule against Foreign Minister David Levi.

[Begin Levi recording] This is the time to set the record straight, once and for all. The Prime Minister's Office does not always mean the prime minister himself. This is a misconception that must be checked, as it has more than once caused grave damage which has distressed the prime minister as well. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 21 May adds that "Foreign Minister David Levi said today in the Knesset that he does not subscribe to the opinion that the political process is stuck. When the U.S. secretary of state was here, understandings with him were reached, and the activity taking place in the Arab world, the United States, the Soviet Union, and in Europe is in its midst." The foreign minister asserted that "Israel is not under attack and is not being blamed," adding that he hoped "the steps being taken by the United States and by the Soviet Union will soon bring results."]

Sharon: Jewish Population in Golan To Double

TA2105143691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is touring the Golan Heights today, says that the Israeli Government is determined to double the Golan Heights Jewish population, which currently stands at 12,000. In Sharon's view, this decision has nothing to do with the peace process and Syria's possible involvement in the process.

As for the special treaty agreed on by Syria and Lebanon, Minister Sharon noted the very real danger to Israel's security inherent in this move. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the Golan Heights:

The special relations treaty agreed on last week by the Syrian and Lebanese Governments is, in Minister Ari'el Sharon's opinion, the realization of an old Syrian dream. The Syrians never did regard Lebanon as an independent state, but in recent period, the matter has assumed new and dangerous proportions.

[Begin Sharon recording] There is no doubt that Syrian rule in Lebanon constitutes an additional threat to Israel. First of all, it is an additional front, and it is close to areas in which Israel maintains vital industrial infrastructure. I am referring to Haifa and areas north of it. Another danger is Syria's modus operandi. [end recording]

Sharon believes that the problem of terrorist attacks from Lebanon will be exacerbated as of now, because the Syrians—under the guise of honoring agreements in the Golan Heights—will find it easier to use Lebanese soil to mobilize their terrorist agents.

Today, Minister Sharon will inaugurate a new settlement in the Golan Heights: Moshav Kanaf, which is situated on a high cliff overlooking the Kinneret. Representatives of American television networks, who accompany him through the Golan, had prepared in advance the question they asked him, which contains the key word—provocation. They asked: Isn't the timing of the establishment of Kanaf, as well as the construction drive in the Golan, part of your attempt, Minister Sharon, to torpedo Secretary of State Baker's moves? Sharon, who has been there before, says: The settlement policy does not imply any attempt to sabotage the peace process; the opposite is true.

[Begin Sharon recording] The settlement in the Golan Heights, as in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, is a factor enhancing Israel's security. The more secure Israel feels, the readier it will be to take on risks, which always exist in negotiations. [end recording]

Today, 30 families will take up residence in their permanent houses in Kanaf. For six years they lived in a temporary camp in an abandoned Syrian Army base near Eli'ad in the southern Golan Heights. They built their new houses by themselves, without state budgets, with personal loans and mortgages. The completion of construction was not coordinated with James Baker's tour schedules, but Sami Bar-Lev from Qatzrin says that the timing happened to be lucky:

[Begin Bar-Lev recording] Every act in the Golan Heights no doubt has a political significance, and this is part of our reply to the talk we have been hearing recently. [end recording]

Shamir: Palestinian Representation Not Settled

TA2105184791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The prime minister said today that the Palestinians are apparently prepared to accept a phased arrangement along the lines of the Camp David accords, but the

question of their representation in the negotiations has not yet been settled. Briefing the Cabinet today, Mr. Shamir said he believes there is a chance of promoting the political process, although it is still hard to tell whether Syria and Jordan will join it. He noted that Syria demands an all-out withdrawal from all the territories and an international conference, while Jordan tends to accept the notion of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but it is not clear whether the Palestinians accept this proposal.

Our political correspondent 'Immanu'el Halperin adds that, in his briefing to the Cabinet, Mr. Shamir termed the willingness of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries to send an observer to the conference a certain measure of progress because, as he phrased it, this constitutes an expression of support for negotiations with Israel.

The prime minister noted that the United States had asked Israel not to publicize the document listing the agreements and disagreements formulated in Jerusalem during James Baker's last visit.

Further Reportage on Visit by Poland's Walesa

Walesa, Herzog Speak at Ceremony

LD2105085291 Warsaw PAP in English 1720 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 20—President Lech Walesa and his wife Danuta were today welcomed by Israeli President Hayim Herzog on their arrival in Jerusalem at the start of a 4-day official visit to Israel.

President Walesa is accompanied by education minister Robert Glebocki, Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Dariusz Ledworowski, Minister of Culture Marek Rostworowski, Secretary of State at the Presidential Chancellery Janusz Ziolkowski, and Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski.

At the official ceremony in the rose garden at the Israeli Knesset (parliament), President Herzog spoke of the 1000-year common history of the Polish and Jewish nations, and reminded his audience of the darkest days: the Nazi German attempt to destroy the Jewish nation, which was largely carried out on Polish soil.

President Herzog praised President Walesa's role in the revolution which brought freedom to the nations of Eastern and Central Europe. "History will never forget that you were the first, Mr President, who with uncommon courage raised the banner of the springtime of the nations, which (...) spread through all the countries of the communist camp", said President Herzog.

In reply, President Walesa said that this first visit of a Polish President to the land of Israel was for him an exciting moment. "I hope that my visit to your beautiful country will lead to deeper knowledge, understanding and friendship between our nations. This was not possible before now, because of the communist system imposed on (Poland) by force, which sowed hatred and intolerance". He continued: "I arrive in Israel bearing messages of peace and friendship. I am certain that mutual trust will once again form the basis for contacts between Poland and the Jews".

Urges Reconciliation in Knesset Address

LD2105090491 Warsaw PAP in English 2332 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 20—Addressing the Israeli Knesset today, Lech Walesa said Poland used to be a common home for Poles and Jews. There were times when more than a half of the whole Jewish nation lived in Poland and the diaspora in Poland was the second biggest in the world, he said.

The Second World War brought the gravest ever tragedy to the Jewish nation. We helped you as we could. There were many Poles 'righteous among the nations of the world' and those have their own trees [as memorials] in Israel.

But there were also wrongdoers among us (...) I am a Christian and I cannot weigh on a human scale twenty centuries of evil. Here, in Israel, in the cradle of your culture and your revival, I am asking your forgiveness, Walesa said.

The uprising in the Warsaw ghetto had begun one year before the Warsaw uprising broke out. The cooperation between the home army and the Jewish fighting organization is the tradition we proudly refer to.

The Polish-Jewish relations were the worst when the alien force was imposed on Poland. The 'divide et impere' rule was applied also by communists after the war. Our nations, deprived of independent states, were looking at one another and saw only biased pictures.

But today, when Poland is coming back to the family of independent states to which she introduced Israel in 1948, let us be open to the future. As a representative of Poland, which has fought and succeeded in achieving independence, in the name of the Polish honour, I am asking you to be just in your memory.

I have appointed a council for the Polish-Jewish relations that will signal every barrier to our cooperation. We are establishing long-term educational programmes. The Polish youth will gain broader knowledge about the common history of our nations.

After the over twenty-year break, we have established diplomatic relations. I am impressed with Israel's achievements. You have created a strong democratic state in forty years despite numerous threats and difficulties. We can learn from your experiences.

We support the seeking for just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This can be possible if security and development are guaranteed in every country of that region, Walesa said and wished Israel such peace.

I think it an important day when I, as the president of the Republic of Poland, can address representatives of Israel. Let our meeting serve to remove all prejudices. Let it be an impulse to the deepening of cooperation between Poland

and Israel. Let it be conducive to the revival of brother-like links between Poles and Jews in Poland, in Israel and the world over.

Calls Off Arms Deal With Syria

TA2105192891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa spent the afternoon visiting Christian holy sites. He and his wife went to Bethlehem and were greeted there by Mayor Ilyas Frayj. Earlier, they toured Jerusalem's Old City. The Walesas walked along the Via Dolorosa, the route taken by Jesus according to Christian tradition, reading relevant passages from the New Testament. Our reporter says they were visibly moved by the experience.

Walesa also met today with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and was hosted at a luncheon by Prime Minister Shamir. Afterwards, the prime minister was asked for his assessment of the first two days of President Walesa's visit to Israel.

[Begin Shamir recording] Of course, I think it will be a new era of cooperation between our two countries, and we will look for some subjects of cooperation [passage indistinct due to break in transmission]. [end recording]

Prime Minister Jan Bielecki, accompanying Walesa on his trip, said the visit has opened a new chapter in Israeli-Polish relations.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 21 May adds that in his meeting with Defense Minister Arens this evening, President Walesa announced that Poland would "call off an arms deal with Syria, whereby it would have sold it tanks. We will not sell weapons to Israel's enemies," Walesa said. "Minister Arens stressed that this is not an easy decision for Poland, which is suffering severe economic problems. Israel appreciates this gesture, Minister Arens pointed out."]

Holds Breakfast Meeting With Shamir

LD2105211591 Warsaw PAP in English 1547 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Tel Aviv, May 21—President Lech Walesa today held a breakfast meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the King David Hotel in Tel Aviv. Both men later gave public speeches.

President Walesa referred to his meeting yesterday with President Herzog, and repeated his belief that Polish-Israeli cooperation will in future be established on a more effective footing.

Walesa noted with satisfaction the rapid growth in Polish-Israeli trade. "The trade agreement to be signed during my visit will fully normalise economic relations between our two countries," he said.

Commenting on Israeli involvement in joint-venture companies in Poland, President Walesa said that Poland could learn much from the successful example of Israeli agriculture and stock-breeding. "We envisage great possibilities for cooperation in areas such as telecommunications, agricultural production and environmental protection," he added.

"Israels expertise in steering and managing a market economy is known. This is another area of cooperation which ought to be developed," he said.

President Walesa again appealed for both nations to come to a closer understanding of each other, in economic and in other matters.

In reply, Prime Minister Yitshaq Shamir noted the great interest shown in Israel towards events in Poland. On the one hand, the role of "Solidarity" in the fall of communism had captured the Israeli imagination.

"On the other hand, this interest is the result of the meeting of many people from Israel with the silent remains of the Jewish past, with the death camps on Polish soil, and with the great poignancy arising from such meetings", Shamir said.

Shamir, himself born in Poland, noted the role of the struggle for Polish independence in encouraging Polish Jews to fight for the independence of their nation. "Jewish youth, impressed by the example of the Polish nations struggle for freedom, learned from it and remained under its influence".

He noted the assistance offered by the Polish forces in arming the insurgents who fought for Israeli independence after the Second World War.

Shamir continued: "Our two nations both passed through suffering and struggle to build independent states." The Polish struggle against foreign domination was mirrored later by Israels situation, forced to construct an economy against the background of hostile neighbours.

"These similarities in the development of our nations and countries create a special background for contacts, and a basis for mutual understanding," said the Israeli prime minister.

King Speaks on Postwar Phase, Peace Process

JN2205101691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, this afternoon sponsored the graduation ceremony of a new batch of the Royal War College.

His majesty made a speech at the ceremony in which he outlined the aspects of the post-Gulf crisis phase and the lessons learned from it. His majesty also noted the efforts being made to find a solution to the Palestine question and settle the Arab-Israeli dispute so as to establish just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

His majesty emphasized the considerations for which Jordan had welcomed U.S. President Bush's initiative last March to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute and resolve the Palestine question.

His majesty also spoke about the peace process plan which was put forward by the United States based on the principles contained in President Bush's initiative.

You can listen to full recording of His Majesty King Husayn's speech during our "News Desk" program one hour from now [1100 GMT].

Iraq's Ramadan Interviewed on Reconstruction

JN2105183191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi vice president and Revolution Command Council member, arrived in Amman this evening en route to Sanaa, to represent Iraq at the celebrations marking the first anniversary of Yemeni unity. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab met Ramadan.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Mr. Vice President, what is new in Iraqi-Arab relations following the Arab League meeting?

[Ramadan] I do not want to get ahead of events because the recent League meeting did not discuss inter-Arab and Iraqi-Arab relations so that I can give a point of view. However, we say that extraordinary efforts are needed by all parties, and consequently from the gathering point of the Arabs—the Arab League—to set the constants for inter-Arab relations. I think that this is a top priority at this stage, ahead of Arab-foreign relations. I hope that we will all, along with the League, succeed to begin sound inter-Arab relations that make the nations' interests the top priority.

[Dhiyab] When will the final agreement between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish opposition be signed?

[Ramadan] I can say that the dialogue is proceeding in a positive manner within the framework of the March statement and the autonomy. I can assert that important and basic steps have been taken. We are optimistic that within days the results of this dialogue might be announced since there is serious action now taking place. All sides are convinced that the results will be in favor of national unity, and overcome the difficulties the enemies of Iraq and of Iraqi unity have attempted to create between the parties—which we call parties but are the pillars of future Iraq.

[Dhiyab] In your opinion, when will Iraq go back to normal?

[Ramadan] Life is returning...[rephrases] rather, has returned to normal in Iraq for some time now. What is being accomplished in Iraq now, in terms of rebuilding what the 30-country aggression destroyed, is the best example that life has not only returned to normal, but that there is also outstanding activity that expresses the Iraqi people's sure determination to overcome what the war wrought. A large number of refineries have been restored, and we have even gone beyond self-sufficiency. Electricity has been restored to all governorates without exception. Some things remain unfinished here and there in terms of when electricity will be available, but the national network in its entirety has been restored.

[Dhiyab] Communications....

[Ramadan, interrupting] There is communications between all governorates. Now, the repair of residential areas has begun and will be completed within days. It's been only a few weeks of hard work. These are serious indications that life has returned to normal in an active and extraordinary manner. Moreover, we say that this activity will increase in the coming stage, indeed. Because, of course, organizing and planning action, and the extraordinary efforts at the refineries and power stations in particular, required major efforts since this involved priorities. However, at the coming stage we will find that other sectors will witness serious development and change.

[Dhiyab] Thank you. [end recording]

Baghdad Reports Ramadan Statements

JN2205060891 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said in a press statement that His Majesty King Husayn asked him to convey his greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn. He also noted Jordan's interest in solid relations with Iraq and its concern to strengthen and bolster them to realize the ambitions of the two peoples of the fraternal countries and the goals of the Arab nation.

He affirmed that the future of Iraqi-Jordanian relations, which have been characterized by progress throughout all circumstances, will witness greater prosperity and development through the serious desire and joint action of (?officials) in both countries, such as strengthening relations, since they are of great importance.

Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Amman earlier yesterday en route to Sanaa to represent Iraq in the first anniversary celebrations of the Yemeni unity declaration.

In his statement, the vice president called for exceptional efforts by all Arab sides and the Arab League to set the firm principles of inter-Arab relations, take have priority at this stage. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Meets King, Premier

JN2105201891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has met with Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president of fraternal Iraq, who arrived in Amman this evening en route to Sanaa to join Yemen in the celebrations marking the first anniversary of Yemeni reunification.

Ramadan conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the greetings of his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his pride in his relations with Jordan which serve the interest of both people.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran also met with Ramadan. They discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Qaddumi Says UN, EC Should Join Conference

JN1905193491 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mudar Badran, received the head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi. Discussions during the meeting centered on efforts under way to reach a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause. The prime minister and Mr. Qaddumi asserted the need to continue coordination regarding these efforts, which they said should implement international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Following the meeting, Mr. Qaddumi told Jordan television that procedural problems must not be turned into real problems. He said the most important point was an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories including Jerusalem.

Maha al-Sha'ir asked Mr. Qaddumi on what is being achieved in efforts to hold a peace conference:

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] I have not seen any achievement yet. Still, the process is going on, and Mr. Baker is moving from one place to the other. The adamant position of the Israelis is the main obstacle to the peace process.

[Al-Sha'ir] And what is your opinion about the United Nations' role and the European role in a conference, or international conference, or regional?

[Qaddumi] The United Nations should participate. This is the legal framework within which the conference should be convened, and the European countries also should participate because this is a guarantee to achieve something in this process—to have a lasting peace in the Middle East.

[Al-Sha'ir] A peace conference was agreed to be based on the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What is the PLO position about that?

[Qaddumi] Well, the joint communique of the EC stated that a peace conference should be convened with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council, with the participation of the PLO, on the basis of the UN relevant Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people. It is fully agreed. [end recording]

Comments on Peace Talks, Syrian 'Rift'

LD2005183391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Brother Abu al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, affirmed that the recent announcement by the Gulf Cooperation Council member states on their preparedness to participate in a peace conference was made without the PLO's knowledge and was a card given to others not in the interests of Arabs.

In a press statement following his talks with Jordanian Foreign Minster Tahir al-Masri, brother Abu al-Lutf called for full European participation in the proposed peace conference. He sees such participation as the ideal solution to help achieve a just settlement.

Concerning Shamir's statements, in which he affirmed his rejection of a single inch of the occupied lands, brother Abu al-Lutf said: We, in turn, reject Shamir's remarks in full.

Concerning the technical aspect and forms of a Palestinian representation in peace negotiations, brother Abu al-Luft said that raising such issues at this moment is an act by foreign forces aimed at creating differences between the Arab parties, so that it can be said that the problem is between the Arab brothers. He said that the problem lies in Israel's obdurate position, and the refusal of the United States to put pressure on Israel. He said: If Washington is sincere—it tackled the Gulf crisis in a specific way, with continuous pressure, and mobilized the world to wage war—then it must undertake a similar measure in order to secure an international peace conference in which all the concerned parties would take part.

Brother Abu al-Lutf affirmed that the PLO and Damascus are seeking to patch up the rift between them. He pointed to his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara' on the sidelines of last week's meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo.

Concerning his talks in Amman, brother Abu al-Lutf said that they were a continuation of coordination between Jordan and the PLO on future moves.

Al-Masri Leaves for Official Visit to Turkey

JN2105115491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Turkey today on a three-day official visit, during which he will meet with a number of senior officials there. He will also hold talks with his Turkish counterpart on ways to enhance bilateral relations as well as Arab-Turkish relations and issues of common interest.

For 'Post-Gulf War' Consultations

JN2105110291 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today begins a visit to Turkey. Mr. al-Masri said in a statement to the press that the visit is part of Jordan's post-Gulf war consultations with countries in the region. He said Jordan saw it was appropriate to restore direct contact with Turkey to explain Jordan's views towards peacemaking and underline the Kingdom's role in the peace process.

Israeli Restrictions on Arabs' Entry Decried

JN2205104391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 May 91 p 2

[Text] Amman—PETRA—Interior Ministry Secretary General Salamah Hammad has called on the international community and humanitarian organizations to apply pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their indiscriminate measures against the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, whose objective it is to force the legitimate residents of these territories leave, to harass them, and prevent them from returning to their homeland or increasing the number of their family members or relatives there.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY-PETRA, he said that as part of their indiscriminate measures, the occupation authorities have restricted the number of people from the occupied Arab territories allowed to enter via the King Husayn Bridge to 750 citizens a day down from 1,500, with the new figure dropping to half on Fridays.

Without prior notice, the occupation authorities are turning back citizens who have acquired valid permits to visit the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on the pretext that the permits have not been stamped by the Civil Administration Department. These authorities are also forcing some citizens to sign pledges that they will not return to the occupied territories within at least five years after leaving.

Israel Creating 'Security Crisis' in S. Lebanon

JN2205122591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 May 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] When Baker's mission during his four tours in the region collided with the intransigent Israeli position and the whole world came to realize that Israel is the obstacle to the peace process, the Shamir government began to think about creating new realities in the region that would freeze and shelve peace efforts.

Israel had one alternative; namely, to increase tension on the southern Lebanese front and suggest the possibility of launching a large-scale aggression against Lebanon and Syria on the pretext that the two fraternal countries have reached a "fraternity agreement".

Israeli warplanes have indeed launched barbaric raids on the positions of Lebanese resistance. Moreover, occupation forces in southern Lebanon launched a campaign of terrorism, oppression, and arrests among citizens who live in the villages near the "security strip." Escalating the situation on the south Lebanon front coincided with fiery, provocative statements by the Tel Aviv rulers in an attempt to frighten and terrify the Lebanese, so as to ultimately obstruct and abort the Lebanese-Syrian "fraternity treaty" signed by al-Asad and al-Hirawi.

For Israel is now creating a security crisis that might lead to wider explosions in southern Lebanon. Since Syria is now directly concerned with the protection of Lebanese territory after signing the "fraternity treaty," the area of the conflict might expand, and this would distract the world's attention from the peace efforts to a new security crisis in Lebanon.

It is known that Israel has consistently and doggedly demanded that Syria be isolated and not permitted to participate in the settlement of the dispute in the region.

Israel is now protesting the deployment of Syrian missiles on Lebanese territory, demanding their immediate dismantling, and threatening to use force to destroy them. This confirms that Israel has a premeditated intention to carry out a military action and cause a flare-up in the security situation, and consequently destroy any opportunity to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, and restore security and stability to it.

Therefore, we can say that the Arabs must be cautious and vigilant and prepared to face any sudden Israeli action before it is too late.

Delegation Leaves for Yemen for Anniversary

JN2205073391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, His Majesty King Husayn's political adviser, left Amman for Sanaa at noon today at the head of an official delegation to convey His Majesty King Husayn's congratulations and those of the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman in the Republic of Yemen, and the fraternal Yemeni people on the first anniversary of the reunification of Yemen.

The delegation includes the minister of industry and trade, the commander of the Royal Air Force, and the assistant chief of staff.

Al-Harawi, Al-Asad Sign Cooperation Treaty

NC2205112191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1048 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] We have just received the following: Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad have signed a treaty linking Lebanon, which was devastated by civil war, with its strong neighbor. The treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination comes within the framework of the al-Ta'if peace accord to end a 16-year-old civil war in Lebanon, where Syria has 40,000 troops.

Lebanese Delegation to Signing Named

NC2205080191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese and Syrian Governments will sign the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty in Damascus today. Presidents Ilyas al-Hirawi and Hafiz al-Asad will make speeches on this occasion.

The official Lebanese delegation arrived at the Park Hotel in Shtawrah at 0930 today. The delegation includes President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Ministers Albert Mansur, Michel Sasin, Faris Buwayz, Sulayman Franjiyah, Khatchig Babikian, 'Ali al-Khalil, Nazih al-Bizri, Zahir al-Khatib, Nicola al-Khuri, Shawqi Fakhuri, As'ad Hardan, Elie Hubayqah, Sami al-Khatib, Nadim Salim, Michel al- Murr, Muhsin Dallul, Muhammad Baydun, 'Abdallah al-Amin, and Marwan Hamadah.

Ministers George Sa'adah and Roger Dib have affirmed that they will not participate in the signing ceremony, noting their reservations about the treaty.

Sa'adah Comments

NC2105180091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] On the eve of the visit the president, the prime minister, and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies will pay to Damascus, President Ilyas al-Hirawi has informed the spiritual Christian and Muslim leaders that the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty will be signed tomorrow in Damascus. Al-Hirawi said he hopes that the Lebanese will show a spirit of national unity to rebuild the country and preserve its independence and sovereignty in accordance with that agreement.

In a related development, President al-Hirawi today met with Phalangist Party leader Minister Dr. George Sa'adah along with lawyer Munir al-Haj, deputy leader of the Phalangist Party, and Minister Roger Dib, secretary general of the Phalangist Party.

Following the meeting, Dr. Sa'adah said that he favors the agreement with Syria and the principle of distinguished ties with that country. Dr. Sa'adah said: We have endorsed the al-Ta'if agreement, which calls for distinguished ties between Lebanon and Syria. The Phalangist Party's statement in this regard was very clear. We would have wanted this to be an occasion of reconciliation among the Lebanese and cooperation with Syria.

Dr. Sa'adah added: We made several remarks about the agreement in Cabinet meetings. Some of our remarks were adopted and some were not. Dr. Sa'adah said that our remarks are now well-known and that any simple reading of yesterday's statement would provide a clear picture of the situation.

Dr. Sa'adah noted that everyone was in agreement in al-Ta'if, but some objections were later made. Therefore, we sought to achieve consensus on every clause of the al-Ta'if agreement and we noted the agreement's merits and our reservations.

Maronite Patriarch Opposed to Treaty

NC2105184791 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Beirut, May 21 (AFP)—The patriarch of Lebanon's Maronite Christian community, Monsignor Nasrallah Sfayr, on Tuesday said the Lebanese-Syrian treaty about to be signed between the two countries was a repudiation of the basis for post-independence Lebanon.

"I think it is a blow to the National Pact of 1943," he told AFP. "The Lebanese agreed to say no to the East and the West after independence. That means that the Moslems don't try to link up with Syria and the Christians don't reach out for France's protection."

The pact is an unwritten gentleman's agreement enunciating Lebanon's domestic and foreign policy.

The leader of the largest Christian denomination in Lebanon slammed the "treaty of fraternity, cooperation and coordination which is to be signed Wednesday in Damascus by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad.

Msgr. Sfayr said it was concluded hastily, before Lebanon had recovered its complete sovereignty.

"Accords and treaties are reached between two parties enjoying the same political status," he said. "As long as Lebanon has been unable to extend its authority throughout its territory, we can't say it is free and master of its fate."

The comments came hours after Israeli artillery pounded positions in southern Lebanon and fuelling fears that Israel was readying for a major offensive to scuttle the Lebanese-Syrian treaty.

"We're interested in passing accords with Syria as a neighbor, provided it occurs between two independent and sovereign states, within the framework of two parties able to do so freely," Msgr. Sfayr said.

He voiced surprise at the speed with which the agreement was concluded between Beirut and Damascus.

The patriarch noted that other agreements like that of May 17, 1983, between Lebanon and Israel—abrogated a year

later—and the tripartite accord between the Lebanese militias penned in Damascus in 1985 had been summarily denounced.

He said the al-Ta'if accord of October 1989 on Lebanese political reform, which was hammered out by Lebanese MPs in the Saudi resort of the same name, "stipulates that there will be agreements on specific and time-limited issues between Lebanon and Syria, without reference to a treaty, which is more limiting."

In concluding the treaty with Syria, officials thought they would obtain security in exchange for sovereignty," Msgr. Sfayr said.

"We're afraid we'll lose both security and sovereignty," he concluded, pointing to Israel's involvement.

Israeli Antitreaty Efforts Feared

NC2105161491 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Beirut, May 21 (AFP)—Israeli artillery units pounded positions in southern Lebanon Tuesday, fueling fears the Jewish state was preparing to unleash a major operation to torpedo a Lebanese-Syrian treaty.

The concern was echoed in Damascus, where the presidents of Syria and Lebanon are due to meet Wednesday to sign a treaty that aligns their countries on foreign policy and provides for military, economic and security cooperation.

Israel, which shares borders with both countries, has already predicted that Wednesday's signing will be a threat to its security and signal Lebanon's demise.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, a former Israeli defense minister and the architect of its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said the treaty "opens an additional front which threatens residential and industrial sectors in northern Israel."

Defense Minister Moshe Arens accused Syria of "swallowing up" Lebanon by "forcing" it to sign the treaty and said the accord violated all international norms.

The official Syrian media warned that Israel was preparing a major attack on Lebanon while private and state-run radios in Beirut reported an Israeli military buildup in South Lebanon.

The information was dismissed by Timor Goksel, spokesman for a U.N. force in southern Lebanon, and by Lebanese Army officials there, with both agreeing that the situation was "normal."

The Lebanese Army was placed on a state of alert Saturday after Israeli jets killed three people and wounded eight in a raid against a position of the secular Shi'ite milita Amal, whose chief Nabih Birri is a minister of state in the Lebanese Government.

The Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizballah movement said 25 Israeli shells slammed into its positions on the edge of the Israeli-controlled "security zone" along the Lebanon-Israel border, causing damage but no casualties.

Late Monday, two Israeli helicopters circled the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Rashidiyah near the southern port city of Tyre, firing flares over the compound.

Israeli officials fear the treaty will allow Syrian troops to deploy freely in southern Lebanon with heavy weapons, posing a threat to Israel.

Parliamentary sources in Jerusalem said several MP's had raised the possibility that the tension could degenerate into war if Syria went beyond the "red lines" laid down by Israel.

Officials in Beirut fear that Israel could torpedo the government's efforts to extend its sovereignty nationwide after it largely succeeded last month in disbanding militias which had been in control of most of the country since factional fighting erupted in 1975.

The greatest fear here is that Israel will use the treaty as a pretext to continue its deployment in the "security zone" which it controls jointly with units of its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

SLA leader Antoine Lahd warned Monday that the Syrian-Lebanese accord could delay an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

This was hammered again Tuesday by a "high-ranking Israeli source" in an interview broadcast by SLA radio.

"The signing of a Lebanese-Syrian treaty will put an end to any hope of implementing (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 425," which stipulates an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the source said.

A key Lebanese right-wing Christian party, the Phalangist party, which has always had uneasy relations with Damascus, urged government to make modifications to the treaty.

Al-Dib Comments on Treaty, Other Issues

NC1905135991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] In an interview with our radio, Minister of State Rojet al-Dib said that reports that the Lebanese Forces [LF] are opposed to the entire Lebanese-Syrian agreement are inaccurate. Al-Dib, however, did not elaborate on the LF position on the treaty, saying only: We are careful not to discuss this topic with the media because it is a sensitive issue and is still being debated. Al-Dib noted that when the LF approved the al-Ta'if agreement it also approved the framework for Lebanese-Syrian relations that the agreement entails.

As for the assimilation of the militias, al-Dib said: The salaries will be paid to militiamen beginning 1 May [as heard]. He added that there are other details concerning the assimilation into the army, security forces, and government departments that will be discussed in a soon-to-be-formed committee.

Al-Dib said that of the 19,000 LF militiamen, 6,500 will be assimilated in the near future. He said that some details still need to be worked out in this regard.

Al-Dib said that Minister Khatchig Babikian asked to be relieved from the subcommittee on the assimilation of the militias, which is why Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib replaced him in that committee. Al-Khatib's nomination to the committee was also made due to the importance his ministry places upon the assimilation process.

Concerning Israel's escalating intervention in Lebanon, al-Dib said: This is a new development and we should monitor it closely to learn its implications. There is a political message involved and we should read it well. In reply to a question on whether there is a link between this escalation and the Lebanese-Syrian agreement, al-Dib mentioned that there are Lebanese and regional factors involved. He did say that this development is related to events in Lebanon.

Al-Dib did not deny that LF weapons were moved to the occupied border strip, but said that he would not discuss that sensitive matter. He said that the LF is committed to the reconciliation process and will get their arms out of the areas under army control. He emphasized that the border strip is Lebanese territory.

Al-Dib declined to answer a question on Israeli supervision of the transfer of weapons. He noted that the LF is working under political constraints that make it necessary for it to abide by the reconciliation process.

Lahd Visits Beirut, Conveys Message From Shamir

TA2105155991 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 May 91 p 3

[Text] Beirut—Antoine Lahd recently paid a secret visit to the Lebanese capital, Beirut. This was the second such visit over the last month.

Informed sources have said that General Lahd met in Beirut with a number of high-ranking Lebanese officials, headed by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and discussed important issues with them relating to the security situation in Lebanon's southern regions, as well as other topics.

The sources added that the South Lebanese Army commander conveyed important verbal messages to Beirut from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and General Yitzhaq Mordecai, commander of the Northern Command. Upon returning to the "security zone" in South Lebanon, Lahd immediately left for Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, where he met with Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Premier Makes Statement on Israeli Attack

NC1905133691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 May 91

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami in Tripoli on 19 May—recorded]

[Text] Israel did not believe that the march to implement all the provisions of the al-Ta'if accord would succeed. When it began to feel the results, which have led and will continue to lead the unification and reconstruction of Lebanon and the resumption of its great civilized and national role, Israel began to grumble. We saw evidence of this from the diplomatic reports we had received. When we began to implement the clauses of the al-Ta'if accord on the establishment of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between Lebanon and Syria, Israel's irritation increased until it was translated into attacks, like the one we witnessed yesterday.

Lebanon, which has decided to continue its unification and reconstruction march and to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 425, will never be dissuaded by these attacks. As we have always stated, this is the will of the Lebanese people. We fully realize the methods pursued by Israel to wreck Lebanon's march and sow discord among the Lebanese people. However, we are confident more than ever before that the Lebanese people, who have suffered for several years and who know their friends and foes, will not repeat the same experiment. They will stick to their decisions and to their objectives in order to rescue and reunite Lebanon. Therefore, whatever Israel does will only increase our determination to continue the march.

We draw the attention of the United Nations and the United States to these Israeli crimes which target innocent people. In their capacity as representatives of international legitimacy, the United Nations and the United States are responsible for all of Israel's actions in Lebanon.

We ask the Lebanese people, or a faction of the Lebanese people who are still hesitant regarding some matters, to realize the magnitude of the dangers threatening Lebanon. All of us must realize that there is no salvation for us except through the unity of our words and objectives.

Israeli Forces' Activities in South Reported

NC2205090991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Israeli occupation forces used tank guns to shell an onion field east of the town of Shaqra at 0630 today. 'Umayah, 30, and I'tidal al-Khatib, 22, were killed. Their mother was seriously wounded.

In another development, Israeli occupation forces have continued to concentrate military forces in the south, especially in the area east of Sidon, where the agents' positions are located in Jazzin.

According to the latest reports this morning, the Israeli enemy pushed new forces into the Jazzin area last night. The concentrated force is estimated to have more than one armored brigade and one infantry brigade, comprising over 120 military vehicles, including 50 Merkava tanks, 45 M-113 armored troops carriers, and over 2,500 soldiers.

The reports add that these forces assembled in the area around Kafr Hunah.

Israel Steps Up 'Military Escalation' in South

NC2105145691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Israel today stepped up its aggressive military escalation when its forces bombarded Hill 910 in Western al-Biqa' and reinforced its positions with troops facing the

liberated areas. The Israeli bombardment was accompanied by helicopter overflights.

AFP cited a Hizballah source as saying that its positions in western al-Biqa' came under bombardment today but no loss of life was reported.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hasan Yusuf, head of the Council of the South, has said that the repeated Israeli attacks on the South confirm Israel's involvement in the plan which aims to disintegrate Lebanon. Dr. Yusuf said that the solution of the Lebanese crisis should begin from the South.

Amal Hands Over Military Equipment to Army

NC2105111191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpt] In implementation of an Amal Movement decision, a number of military vehicles, trucks, M-113 personnel carriers, Penhard armored vehicles, and military jeeps were handed over today to the Lebanese Army, which originally owned this equipment. The equipment was handed over at the movement's centers in al-Biqa' in the presence of Mahmud Hamdan, the local Amal official in charge. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Fighters Plan To Move Against Israelis

NC2105174391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Our security correspondent has learned that the Israeli buildup in the South is nothing new. According to available information, the Israeli Army brought in vehicles and troops to the border strip in late April and early May. Security sources, who describe these reinforcements as considerable, expressed their fear that the fundamentalists and Palestinians may undertake operations against these troops, a matter which could throw the area in turmoil.

According to our security correspondent, Hizballah fighters are fortifying their positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, in areas where the Army has not deployed yet, and that they intend to carry out operations against the Israeli positions facing them.

Exchanges are currently under way with local Lebanese groups to prevent them from engaging in any action that Israel could use as a pretext to mount operations that it would call preventive.

'Hundreds' of Israeli Tanks Reported in South

NC2105162191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Information sources in West Beirut, citing reports from the South, reported intensive Israeli motorized movements in the central sector of southern Lebanon. The sources cited official internal security forces reports as saying that hundreds of Merkava tanks have entered the border strip in the past 24 hours. The reports added that scores of tanks took up combat positions in the Jazzin area, particularly near to the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn-al-Mir combat line.

The same reports said that Israeli armored concentrations were spotted all along the border strip, adding that Israeli warplanes have been overflying the South since the morning.

A Palestinian source in Sidon said today that the Palestinian fighters in the Palestinian camps near Tyre have been placed in a state of alert following last night's helicopter overflights. Two Israeli helicopters dropped scores of flares on al-Rashidiyah camp, drawing antiaircraft fire. Israeli gunboats bombarded the al-Rashidiyah camp last night.

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Arrives in Damascus

JN2205103591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi of the Republic of Lebanon and his accompanying delegation, made up of Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and 'Umar Karami, head of the Lebanese Government and prime minister, arrived in Damascus at 1215 today.

Leading those who received them at the western entrance to Damascus was President Hafiz al-Asad.

Brotherhood Treaty Signed

JN2205115891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi held a meeting at the al-Sha'b Palace. The meeting was attended for the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly; and Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers. Attending for the Lebanese side were Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; and 'Umar Karami, head of the Lebanese Government.

Following the end of the meeting, Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi moved into the hall that was prepared for the signing of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Lebanon.

The treaty was signed in the presence of Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly; Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; the deputies of the prime minister, and the ministers. Attending for the Lebanese side were Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; and 'Umar Karami, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the ministers.

Following the signing ceremony, the two presidents exchanged speeches on this occasion. The Lebanese and Syrian sides congratulated the two presidents, and exchanged congratulations on this historic occasion.

Kuwaiti Minister Praises Relations With Country

JN1905074691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has addressed sincere greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad, saying: I greatly value his sincere pan-Arab role in standing by Kuwait. We pray God that the Syrian-Kuwaiti relations will witness progress and prosperity during his era and that of the Kuwaiti amir. In a statement to the SANA correspondent in Kuwait, al-Ya'qub said Syria's sacrifices for Kuwait and its principled position had a great effect on liberating Kuwait and formed the basis for future Kuwaiti-Syrian cooperation. The Kuwaiti official described the Syrian-Kuwaiti ties as very good, affirming that Syria's support for Kuwait during its plight was a crowning of connections between the two fraternal countries.

The minister praised Syria's great role in realizing peace and security in Lebanon. He said: Syria has proved to the entire world that it is a country of values and principles, protecting and preserving its neighbor's rights.

Al-Ya'qub described the Damascus declaration as a basic principle for very strong cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council states, Syria, and Egypt, both in the present and future, because the declaration represents Arab aspirations at this stage and is a strategic asset in the region demonstrating the eagerness of these states to realize a better future for the Arab nation.

On the announcement about the Egyptian forces' withdrawal from Kuwait, the Kuwaiti information minister said that these forces were scheduled to withdraw within a certain time frame, affirming that cooperation would continue between Egypt and Kuwait and that there is no disagreement between the two countries. The Kuwaiti minister said: Syrian workers will have preferential treatment in obtaining contracts in Kuwait. This also applies to Egyptian workers, because the Kuwaiti people regard them with appreciation and esteem for their contribution toward Kuwait's liberation.

Al-Ya'qub said that Saddam Husayn reaped only affliction and destruction for the Iraqi people and the various Iraqi establishments, sapped Iraqi military power, and damaged the Palestinian cause.

UN Asked To Consider Force Against Israel

JN2005150591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Literally every nation on earth, above all ourselves, is willing to see the establishment of a new world order—a world in which peace, justice, and legitimacy prevail. We want a new world order in which the weak are not exploited by the strong, where aggression, oppression, and injustice are in retreat, and where right is in the ascendant and progress and prosperity prevail.

As the cold war between East and West gives way to detente, the Arabs, and especially Syria, want to see a new world order that favors the resolution of regional conflicts. The lesson to be learned from the Gulf crisis, in which the aggressor was held in check and was made to respect UN resolutions, is that the United Nations and international legitimacy must reign supreme. In the 40-odd years we have been locked in a bitter conflict with the Zionist enemy, we have hoped for nothing more than for this dispute to be settled according to international law. Throughout, we would have liked the international community to press for the enforcement of relevant UN resolutions to secure our minimal rights and to open the door for a fair and comprehensive peace without injustice, duress, or aggression.

Israel has either failed to grasp the meaning of the new world order or chosen to ignore its requirements, relying on its biblical dream and military arsenal and on a network of special relationships it has built over the years with certain centers of power around the world. By being so recalcitrant, Israel is flying in the face of the whole world as the latter strives to consolidate its new foundations. If Israel is allowed to have its way, and if UN resolutions are enforced selectively, the world is bound to relapse into polarization, the arms race, and the use of arms in settling regional disputes.

Speaking to Egyptian journalists accompanying President Mubarak on his recent visit to Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad made it abundantly clear that the United Nations must participate in the proposed peace conference and, having hedged its attendance with countless qualifications and reservations, Israel should be held responsible for the stalled peace process.

We ask whether the emerging new world will make allowances for Israel and let it get away with its persistent rebelliousness, or whether the world will show sufficient assertiveness and compel Israel to abide by UN resolutions, using force if necessary.

Perez de Cuellar's Statement on Zionism Denounced

JN2105183691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 21 May (SANA)—The Arab Committee Against Zionism and Racism issued a statement today denouncing the way UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has challenged the UN General Assembly resolution issued on 10 November 1975 describing Zionism as a form of racial discrimination.

In the statement, the committee said that Perez de Cuellar's declaration coincided with the growing Zionist campaign to reject UN authority and international legitimacy in line with Israel's continued rebellion against the UN Charter and resolutions.

The committee believes that Perez de Cuellar's declaration conflicts with successive UN resolutions that led to the description of the Zionist enemy's occupation and settlement of the occupied Arab territories as the most blatant racist process.

Treaty With Lebanon Provokes Israel's 'Spite'

JN2105214491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Nothing provokes Israel's spite more than rapprochement and understanding between two Arab states, especially if these two states are Syria and Lebanon—honest Syria, which cares about Arab rights and confronts the enemy's expansionist schemes, and Lebanon, which defeated the Zionist project, triumphed over the partition plot, and restored internal unity, and is today realizing national reconciliation on a firm basis [word indistinct].

During the outgoing period, which witnessed the collapse of the [word indistinct] rebellion and the success of the legitimate Lebanese Government in realizing one victory after another, Israel has been bent on casting doubt on the possibility of reconciliation and emergence of the Lebanese state and its ability to control its affairs. Israel's hopes have been dashed time and again. Israel's hopes were dashed when life returned to Greater Beirut; when the militias were dissolved; when the Lebanese Army was deployed in all areas; when peace, security, and stability prevailed in Lebanon; and when the Lebanese Government took the initiative to conclude the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination, which organizes Lebanese-Syrian relations and transforms them into a protective shield for Lebanon and the region against the machinations of every sinful aggressor.

As the Lebanese people were fused in the crucible of national unity and as they rushed to cooperate with the legitimate government, facilitating its unifying task of deliverance, Israel found that it had no choice but to drop its last mask, especially since the treaty of brotherhood and cooperation meant in essence a victory of the reconciliation march and the reopening of the file of the occupied south and the Israelis' tampering with Lebanon's water resources.

Therefore, Israel's threats began to mount against the fraternal country. The enemy raised the level of its concentrations and staged raids to terrorize the Lebanese Army and prevent it from deploying in the southern areas. The Lebanese Government responded to the Israeli provocations by calling on the international community to implement its commitments toward Lebanon, particularly Resolution No. 425, which demands Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the occupied southern region. At the same time, the Lebanese Government reaffirmed its determination to continue the march of reconciliation and consolidate cooperation with Syria.

As we review the years of the ordeal in the fraternal country, we clearly realize that Israel was successful in the absence of Syrian-Lebanese cooperation, and it failed when this cooperation took the path of practical implementation. President Ilyas al-Hirawi was the first Lebanese president to avail himself of Syria's resources in the interest of the Lebanese march of unification and deliverance out of his conviction that only Syrian assistance was capable of turning the tables in the interest of Lebanon's recovery.

Syria, represented by its leader al-Asad, responded to the calls of the legitimate Lebanese Government. The results today are as bright as daylight. Lebanon is proceeding along the path of recovery and normal life and has indeed covered the important and decisive part of this path. The treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination, to be ratified by the two countries, is designed to organize the special relationship between them, making it immune to changes and moods. This is because Syrian-Lebanese ties are firmer and deeper than any written documents. This relationship has triumphed during the past 16 years over continued plotting and against the fiercest plotters and

proved that it is the fate of the Syrians and Lebanese and the embodiment of the will of history and geography.

Therefore, Israel's threats cannot undermine this relationship. Indeed, this relationship and cooperation will play a decisive role in liberating the occupied south and exposing Israel's rebellion against international legitimacy and the principles, documents, and resolutions of the international community, which is called upon today and in the future to put an end to this rebellion.

Paper on Treaty With Lebanon, Israeli Opposition

JN2205064491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 91

[Press review]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Under the headline "The Giant Genie Has Been Released", the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Arabs as well as the international community believe that the treaty of brotherhood between Damascus and Beirut is a positive development and an implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. The Lebanese also consider it to be an expression of their national desire, an important factor in consolidating the accord steps already taken, a guarantee that this country will not be caught up in the hated civil war once again, and a support for the honest efforts to build the new Lebanon. The only people opposed to it are the Zionists, who are now mobilizing all their resources to attack the legitimate Lebanese Government in order to harm it and its efforts to establish distinguished relations with Damascus, which would serve Lebanon, Syria, and all the Arabs.

TISHRIN affirmed that Israel is Lebanon's archenemy. This is the fact revealed by the events of the Lebanese crisis. There is also another fact that has started coming into focus now: Zionism has lost its grip in Lebanon, and the situation in this Arab country has totally disentangled itself from the hands of the Zionist entity, which has now become unable to destroy the march of accord, resolution, and peace in this Arab country.

TISHRIN concludes: Approving the treaty of brotherhood between Lebanon and Syria will not only help Beirut to retrieve its health, but also will divert all the arrows of conspiracy from it and shield it against public and hidden Zionist pressures.

The giant genie of construction, the future, and accord in Lebanon has been released from its magic lamp, and no matter how many destructive efforts Israel makes, it will not be able to imprison this genie once again.

Israel Accused of 'Torpedoing' Peace Process

JN2105073991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria, the Voice of the Nation," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Contacts between Damascus and Cairo have not stopped since the restoration of sincere intimate relations between the two countries. It is natural therefore that consultations are held on the highest level regarding fateful issues. There is nothing more important than the Palestine question and the efforts being made to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yesterday's talks between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak fall within the framework of action to crystallize a unified Arab stand to safeguard Arab rights and foil Israel's evil schemes to divide the conflict and impose impossible conditions that would empty the aspired peace conference of its essence and effectiveness.

TISHRIN adds: In his statements to journalists yesterday, leader al-Asad exposed the extent of Israel's intransigence. The hundreds of no's that it puts before the international efforts to achieve a settlement are aimed only at torpedoing the entire peace process.

TISHRIN says: Although President Bush has pledged to work to attain the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and to achieve Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Zionist entity every day displays further intransigence and shows flagrant disdain for the United Nations and international will. This puts this entity in true confrontation with the world. The international community cannot remain idle over Israel's disobedience. It must impose international legitimacy through the appropriate language.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria, through President al-Asad, showed great readiness to cooperate with the peace efforts. Its position won the respect of governments and peoples. Several statements have been made by U.S., Soviet, and European officials praising Syria and stressing the importance of its participation in the peace conference. Syria, however, will only respond to a genuine and just peace that is fair to the Palestinian people and that will regain the occupied territories. It will continue to adopt this entrenched and firm stand toward adhering to international resolutions and calling on the international community to assume its responsibilities. This Syrian position embodies the Arab nation's will in all its countries.

Peace Without Territories' Liberation 'Surrender'

JN2205092491 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 91 p 9

["AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Muhammad 'Ali Buzah: "Israel's Maneuvers"]

[Text] In spite of the statements made in Cairo by the U.S. secretary of state and his Soviet counterpart on making progress in the talks and contacts they had in the region on the Middle East issue and the convening of a peace conference, the two have never downplayed the obstacles and hindrances to the peace process.

Baker and Bessmertnykh alike were clear when they noted the Zionist complex and how Israel really understands peace and the convocation of the conference.

This Israeli understanding still balks at the very idea of convening an international conference, pursues maneuvering and circumvention, and tries to guarantee in advance that the conference, should it be convened, would

serve the interests of Tel Aviv and its present and future aggressive ambitions in the Arab region. This is being done by setting preconditions that strip the conference of any authority, exclude any role for the international organization and Europe, and turn the conference into an empty, worthless carnival that would be the start of bilateral negotiations and unilateral deals to bring about the Arabs' surrender and obliterate the Palestine question, which is the essence of the conflict.

What is incomprehensible thus far is talk about progress and about fundamental points of agreement among the various parties concerned that surpass points of disagreement. Such talk is difficult to justify as long as Israel's concept of peace remains the same and as long as its practices and policies on the ground remain the flagrant antithesis of the will of the international community to achieve peace. Israel continues to challenge this will and is clinging to stubbornness and recalcitrance.

This talk about progress would seem premature and absolutely illogical, given the statements of enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon about their settlement measures, which confirm adherence to the occupation of Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip, and the desire not to cede one inch of the occupied Arab territories. So what kind of peace can harmonize with all this?

While insisting on the constancy of its positions and adhering to just and comprehensive peace on the basis of UN resolutions and to the effective peace conference under UN supervision, Syria, whose important roles and weight in the region and in the peace process were emphasized by Baker and Bessmertnykh, fully realizes that Israel has never been and will never be on the side of peace. Syria also fully realizes that a peace which does not bring about the liberation of territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights is a false peace; in fact, it is a surrender that Syria rejects and will continue to reject strongly and firmly, whatever the challenges and sacrifices.

India

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Assassinated

Details of Assassination

BK2205005691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] We regret to announce that the former prime minister and the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has been killed in a bomb blast. The tragedy which has shocked the whole country and the world occurred at 10 minutes past 10 last night [1640 GMT, 21 May], 50 km away from Madras. Mr. Gandhi was about to address an election meeting at Sriperumbudur when the massive explosion took place. The body, which was taken to the General Hospital, is being flown to Delhi this morning. The body will lie in state in Teen Murti Bhavan—the official residence of the first prime minister of the country, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, who was also the grandfather of Mr. Gandhi. The date of the funeral will be decided after consulting Mr. Gandhi's family.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Samunderam after seeing the body reports that the face was mutiliated beyond recognition. Eye- witnesses told our correspondent that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi after garlanding the statue of his mother, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, near the dais was proceeding to acknowledge the greetings of the crowd. As he received a few garlands, bouquets and flowers, there was a large explosion, possibly on the rear side of Mr. Gandhi, smashing his head instantly. Initially it was mistaken for a burst of a cracker to welcome him. An old lady who had come to greet Mr. Gandhi was also blown into pieces.

According to information available, nine other persons, including three police officers, have been killed in the incident. Fifty have been injured. Mrs. Chandrashekhar, former central minister and Congress-I candidate for the Sriperumbudur parliamentary constituency, is among those injured. Our correspondent understands from the police sources that the bomb blast might have been operated by remote control, indicating that the persons responsible for the explosion are well-versed in handling these devices.

The president, the vice president, the prime minister, various political parties, and leaders have expressed deep anguish at the barbaric assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. They described it as the heinous act of a coward.

Mr. Venkataraman said words cannot adequately express the nation's grief, nor condemn the dastardly act. In a choked voice, the president said: Mr. Gandhi was a brave, dynamic, and dedicated leader of India, whose life has been cut short by a savage act. He appealed to the people to resolve to fight the cult of violence in public life and use the moments of grief to pray for peace in the country. Vice President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma said the assasination is the grievous blow to the people of India and to democracy. He said it is time when all of us must ponder over the grave tragedy and be aware of any attempt to disrupt the national life.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who air dashed to the capital cutting short his Orissa visit, said the country is facing one of the worst tragedies of our national life. He said the tragedy is beyond words. The assassination has cut short a promising life. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said only our courage and determination to fight the cult of violence can bring the nation out of the crisis. Paying glowing tributes, He said Rajiv Gandhi worked for the development and prosperity of the country. He had his own vision for a new India. Mr. Chandra Shekhar hoped that the nation will face the crisis with fortitude and come out of the difficulties.

The Union Cabinet at an emergency meeting called upon the people to fight the menacing cult of violence and maintain peace and harmony. In a resolution the cabinet described the killing as a heinous and dastardly act and placed on record its appreciation of Mr. Gandhi's special contribution to India and the world.

The government has declared a seven-day state mourning on account of Mr. Gandhi's tragic demise. Central government offices will remain closed today as a mark of respect to the departed leader. Most of the state governments have also announced a public holiday. Flags will fly at half mast and schools and colleges would remain closed.

As soon as the news of Mr. Gandhi's death wass received in Delhi, the cabinet secretary and other senior officials briefed the president on the tragic happening. Mr. Venkataraman went to 10 Janpath—the official residence of Mr. Gandhi, to convey his condolence to the bereaved family. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, accompanied by Mr. Gandhi's daughter Priyanka, have left for Madras by a special aircraft. Mr. Rahul Gandhi, who is now in the United States, is rushing back to Delhi.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, has said the working committee of the party will meet this morning to chalk out the funeral arrangements.

Reports of violence have come in soon after the news of the assasination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had broken out. In Madras, several vehicles were set on fire by strong mobs. The state government has taken all precautionary measures and announced suspension of bus services. The Southern Railways has also cancelled all trains leaving Madras up to 1200 this afternoon. The Central Railway and the Western Railway have also announced suspension of suburban rail services today. But outstation train services would, however, be perated, according to schedule.

In Pondicherry, an unruly mob went on the rampage and attacked the home of a former DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] chief minister and burnt down the cutouts and banners of some political parties in several places in the city. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was scheduled to address the public meeting in Pondicherry today.

Agency reports from Allahabad say that three persons were killed and 12 injured in incidents of violence. Some shops and houses were set on fire by unruly mobs. Reports of stray incidents of violence have come in from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh.

The army was alerted in sensitive areas of Jaipur in Rajasthan. In the industrial town of Kota violent mobs came out on the streets and shouted slogans.

In Andhra Pradesh, indefinite curfew was clamped in Vijaywada following sporadic incidents of violence. Army pickets have been posted at vulnerable areas and patrol-linbg intensified.

The government has issued a warning that strict action would be taken against those trying to defy law and order in any part of the country. An official spokesman told our correspondent this morning that the civil authorities have been asked to take assistance from the army wherever necessary. They have been asked to put down violence with a firm hand.

The government has decided to set up a commission of inquiry headed by a supreme court judge to look into the incident in which Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has been killed. A special investigation team has been set up for the purpose.

The elections to the Lok Sabha and some state assemblies scheduled for tomorrow have been deferred to the 12th of next month. The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, who met the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, in the early hours today announced that the third phase of polling scheduled for Sunday [26 May] will now take place on the 15th of next month. He said repolling in some constituencies, which was to take place today will be held on the 12th June.

Our correspondent says the counting of votes in the Amethi parliamentary from where Rajiv Gandhi was seeking reelection will be taken up and in case Mr. Gandhi is a winner, a by-election will be held.

[Delhi Doordardarshan Television Network in English at 0120 GMT adds that "Maximum security alert has been sounded in the capital and the army has been asked to stand by and placed at strategic locations. Paramilitary forces are assisting the police in maintaining law and order. Carrying of arms, batons, or any other material for creating lawlessness has been banned."]

Gandhi's Body Flown to Delhi

BK2205045491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The mortal remains of the former prime minister and Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, arrived in New Delhi at 0840 this morning [0310 GMT] and was taken straight to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for postmortem. Those present at the airport included the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the vice president, Mr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; the commerce minister, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy; Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Mr. Mohan Dharia; Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, former ministers, senior Congress leaders, and close relatives of Mr. Gandhi. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Janaradhana Reddy, accompanied the body which was flown from Madras.

Funeral Scheduled for 24 May

BK2205085891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The funeral of Rajiv Gandhi will take place on Friday [24 May] with full state honors. The funeral ceremony will take place at a spot earmarked [or named] as Shaktisthal where Mrs. Indira Gandhi was cremated. The gun cortege carrying the body of Mr. Gandhi will leave Tin Murti Bhavan at 0900 [0330 GMT] on Friday. Till then, the body of Mr. Gandhi will lie in state at Tin Murti Bhavan to enable people to pay their last respects. A number of world leaders are expected to attend the funeral of Rajiv Gandhi on Friday.

Gandhi's Widow Named Congress-I President

BK2205133991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 21 (AFP)—The Congress (I) Party of slain former premier Rajiv Gandhi Wednesday unanimously elected his Italian-born widow, Sonia Gandhi, as the party's new president.

"The Congress working commitee has unanimously elected Mrs. Sonia Gandhi as president of the Indian National Congress," a party spokesman said after a party meeting here.

Commission To Probe Assassination

BK2205091691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The union cabinet has called upon the people to maintain peace and harmony. In a resolution, the cabinet called upon the people to fight the menacing cult of violence. The cabinet, which met this morning in an emergency session, decided to set up a commission of inquiry headed by a Supreme Court judge to probe the incident in which Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was killed. The union government has asked the authorities to put down violence with a firm hand.

An official spokesman said the civil authorities have been asked to take assistance from the Army, wherever necessary. The government has issued a warning that strict action will be taken against those trying to defy law and order in any part of the country. The states and union territories have been asked to take suitable action as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order.

In the capital, the Army has been asked to stand by and placed at strategic locations. Paramilitary forces are assisting the police in maintaining law and order. Carrying of arms, lathis [batons], or any other material for creating lawlessness has been banned. DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] buses are not plying in the capital today.

In Bihar, a red alert has been sounded. Patrolling throughout the state has been intensified to meet any eventuality. Paramilitary forces are assisting the police in maintaining law and order.

In Sikkim, the state cabinet took stock of the situation at a meeting today.

In Haryana, a curfew has been imposed in parts of Ambala and Sirsa Districts as a precautionary measure.

In Andhra Pradesh, a curfew has been imposed in some parts of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, following some violent incidents last night.

Police Explore Suicide Bomber Theory

BK2205134091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Madras, India, May 22 (AFP)—Police are exploring the possibility that a woman suicide bomber was responsible for the assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said Wednesday.

Police sources here said investigative teams were checking whether an unidentified woman, whose head was blown 50 feet away by the explosion that killed the former premier, had a bomb wired to her.

The sources said the theory was one of several being investigated by a high-level team, but that no conclusions had been drawn yet.

The sources said the initial belief that the bomb was in a garland or bouquet of flowers presented to the former premier, 47, who died instantly in the explosion Tuesday night, appeared to have been discounted when the suspected basket was found intact.

"It could have been two bombs or one," said the sources.

The massive explosion at the entrance to a political rally in the Tamil Nadu state town of Sriperumpudur left another 16 dead and 50 injured.

Suspicion has focused on the bomber or bombers being members of a Sri Lankan Tamil militant group.

Polls Postponed to June 12, 15

BK2205000691 Hong Kong AFP in English 2339 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—India's Election Commission Wednesday postponed polls set for Thursday and Sunday to next month, a domestic news agency reported, following former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's shock assassination.

The UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) said balloting scheduled for the last two days of the mammoth general elections would now be held on June 12 and 15.

The voting would involve 303 seats in parliament.

On Monday, 204 constituencies went to the polls in the first phase of the elections.

The postponement was reported hours after Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan met President Ramaswamy Venkataraman following Tuesday's assassination of Mr. Gandhi.

Tamil Leader Accuses Sri Lankans

BK2205103391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—An Indian Tamil politician Wednesday accused Sri Lankan Tamil militants of assassinating former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

K. Ramamurthy, a leader of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, said in the southern Indian city of Madras that he suspected the explosion which killed the ex-premier to be the "handiwork" of the Sri Lankan guerrillas.

He told reporters that he would not be surprised "if some parties" in Tamil Nadu State, of which Madras is the capital, had "helped them in the incident."

Mr. Gandhi, 47, was killed in a powerful bomb blast in Sriperumpudur Town, 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Madras, Tuesday night.

Mr. Ramamurthy, who heads the Congress (I)'s Tamil Nadu Chapter, however did not name the Sri Lankan rebels or Tamil Nadu political parties.

But he was believed to be referring to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group which is known to use Tamil Nadu as a sanctuary.

Mr. Gandhi despatched thousands of Indian troops to Sri Lanka's northeast under an accord he signed with Colombo in July 1987. They waged a bush war with the LTTE for more than two years from October 1987.

The LTTE is also known to enjoy the sympathy of some Tamil Nadu political parties, which have previously backed the LTTE's campaign for a Tamil homeland.

Tamil Nadu is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

Tamil Denial; Other Reaction

BK2205093291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—India put one million troops on full alert as violence flared across the country and mourners fought past elite commandos to view the body of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here Wednesday.

World leaders expressed shock and sadness as caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar appealed for calm amid reports of escalating violence following the assassination of Mr. Gandhi in southern India late Tuesday.

India's caretaker cabinet met in a pre-dawn emergency session and launched a full inquiry into the assassination, postponing general elections due Thursday and Sunday for three weeks.

Wailing mourners smashed into the barricaded Gandhi residence here where the former premier's mutilated body lay in a flag-draped coffin.

The body was brought from a city hospital where it was taken directly for embalming after being flown in from Sriperumpudur, the town near Madras in the southern state of Tamil Nadu where Mr. Gandhi and 16 others were killed by a powerful bomb.

Mr. Shekhar, in his first interview since the assassination, told state television the nation "should remain calm and should not get provoked by those bent on creating violence."

A 1,000-strong mob had attacked and burned the residence of Ram Vilas Paswan, a politician opposed to Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party, who lives two houses away from the former premier's residence.

Earlier the government announced an unprecedented scale-one security alert as protest rallies and clashes flared across the country.

No one claimed responsibility for the powerful blast but initial suspicion fell on Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas who waged a 32-month war on Indian troops dispatched by Mr. Gandhi to crush their separatist campaign.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam implicitly denied involvement but Sri Lankan naval patrols were stepped up in the narrow strip of sea separating the island from Tamil Nadu in a bid to intercept Tamil suspects fleeing from India.

Meanwhile at least three people died and 12 others were injured in continuing street violence in Mr. Gandhi's hometown of Allahabad 800 kilometres (500 miles) from New Delhi, the Home Ministry said.

Rioters burned down a cinema owned by opposition politician N.T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh state's capital of Hyderabad, where arsonists gutted garages and stores, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

A fire station was stormed in Secunderabad City and several towns in the coastal Andhra region were put under curfew.

Violence flared in Bombay, India's financial centre where demonstrators battled in the streets and police beefed up patrols.

Calcutta was paralysed as activists from Mr. Gandhi's party squatted on train tracks and roads in Marxist-ruled West Bengal, national radio said.

Mr. Shekhar mobilized the Army in New Delhi and ordered officials in India's 25 states to "sternly" put down unrest.

The Army was placed on standby in the western state of Karnataka and deployed in northern Rajasthan's state capital of Jaipur and the town of Kota to quell overnight violence.

Authorities in violence-prone Bihar state were on the alert for possible attacks by Congress (I) activists [on] opposition parties and in the eastern coastal state of Orissa State rioters burned down a Janata Dal (People's Party) office and passenger trains were cancelled after arson threats.

In the capital protestors burned ornamental election arches installed by rival political parties, forced shops to close and blocked traffic.

Messages of condolence flooded in from world capitals with U.S. President George Bush calling the assassination a "tragedy" and Asian leaders expressing shock and outrage.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed "heartfelt, deep condolences" while in Beijing, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Chinese Premier Li Peng had called Mr. Gandhi a friend who had "made positive contributions to the improvement and growth of Sino-Indian relations."

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the president of Pakistan, India's traditional foe, conveyed condolences.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa condemned the "barbaric "assassination while Bangladesh expressed shock and in Manila, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus described the assassination as a "serious setback" to democracy across the world.

As Mr. Gandhi's body was taken by air force ambulance from his home to Teen Moorti house, police twice cane-charged a growing crowd of some 5,000 Congress (I) supporters and journalists surging forward for a glimpse of the slain leader.

Witnesses said no one was seriously hurt in the charges on the crowd, many of whom were weeping and shouting "we will avenge his blood."

A party spokesman said President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Mr. Shekhar were scheduled to pay their respects later in the day.

He said the body, badly mutilated by the bomb explosion, would remain covered by the saffron, green and white Indian flag as it lay in state until the funeral scheduled for Friday.

Post-Assassination Violence

BK2205101691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Reports of violence have come in from some states. In Andhra Pradesh, curfew has been imposed in some parts of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, following some violent incidents last night. The Army flag marched in the sensitive areas of the twin cities. The law and order situation is being reviewed constantly.

Reports of sporadic incidents of stone-pelting and arson have come in from some parts of Maharashtra, Orissa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

Strikes, Other Violence Reported

BK2205130291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Normal life has been affected in several parts of the country as bundhs [strikes] are being observed in protest

against the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Reports of sporadic violence have also come in from some parts of the country.

In Andhra Pradesh, curfew has been imposed in some parts of the state including Hyderabad and Vijaywada. Two children were killed in separate incidents of police firing in Vijaywada in Krishna District. Normal life came to a virtual halt in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the union territory of Chandigarh. Curfew has been imposed in three Haryana towns as a precautionary measure.

Reports of incidents of violence have also come in from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, and Tripura. Police patrolling has been intensified in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. In Delhi, the army has been asked to stand by at strategic locations. The union government has asked the states and union territories to put down violence with a firm hand. An official spokesman said the civil authorities have been instructed to take assistance from the army wherever necessary.

'Red Alert' Declared

BK2205024491 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0235 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] A red alert has been sounded throughout the country and chief secretaries of all states and union territories have been asked to take precautionary steps.

A maximum security alert has been sounded in the capital and the Army has been asked to stand by and is placed at strategic locations. Paramilitary forces are assisting the police in maintaining law and order. The carrying of arms, lathis [batons], or any other materials for creating lawlessness has been banned. According to Delhi police, instructions have been given to all personnel to deal very firmly with any attempt to disrupt peace.

USSR, PRC, Other Condolences

BK2205065691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The tragedy of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination has shocked the entire nation and the world and messages of condolences are pouring in from every quarter. The Soviet president, Mr. Gorbachev, and his wife, in a message to the president have said we are filled with indignation over the appalling heinous crime. In a separate message to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Gorbachev said Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was our personal friend.

In a message to the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I], the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has described Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as a friend of the Chinese people.

In his condolence message, the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, described Mr. Gandhi as a friend of the Nepalese people. The leaders of the Nepali Congress, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh and Mr. G.P. Koirala, have also condoled the death of Mr. Gandhi.

The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, described Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as a great statesman who sincerely worked to develop close relations between India and Japan.

At the United Nations, several diplomats expressed their sorrow and condemned the dastardly act.

Asia, Pacific Leaders Condolences

BK2205124791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpts] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—Leaders from throughout the Asia-Pacific region expressed shock and dismay Wednesday at the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

At the same time, some expressed concern about the country's stability, while others stressed that India's democratic system would be strong enough to survive the blow. [passages omitted]

Although his country has fought three wars with India, and relations are still marred by intense mutual distruct, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shaharyar Mohammed Khan expressed "profound shock and grief at the terrible tragedy that has taken place."

He said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had already conveyed their condolences to the Indian Government and the bereaved family. [passages omitted]

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaled Zia, meanwhile, hailed Mr. Gandhi as an "uncompromising advocate of democratic values," and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke praised him as a courageous man who had accepted the threat of assassination as part of his job.

"This is a tragic loss, it closes the chapter of a great life and a remarkable man and a remarkable family," Mr. Hawke said in Canberra.

Vietnam's top leaders said in a message that they felt "affliction and dismay."

Thailand's foreign minister, Asa Sarasin, praised Mr. Gandhi as "a great statesman," while Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said India had "lost an outstanding leader and statesman."

In Kathmandu, Premier Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said the "entire Nepalese people and myself are deeply saddened by the tragic death."

Philippine President Corazon Aquino said she felt "profound sadness" and hoped "India and its people ... will be strengthened rather than weakened by this tragic event."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said, "I know Rajiv and I feel very sad over his death."

In Wellington, New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger called the assassination a tragedy for India and democracy everywhere.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong described the slaying as "an abominable crime," while Afghan Foreign

Ministry Spokesman Humayun Mokammel said President Najibullah was "shocked and saddened by the cowardly act."

The region's ethnic Indians joined their fellow countrymen in India in mourning the tragedy.

In Suva, Fiji's large ethnic Indian community said they were planning a day of national mourning for Mr. Gandhi, whom they recalled as a friend of the fight to restore democracy there after army coups deposed an Indian-dominated government in 1987.

Fiji President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau said he was "shocked and saddened." [passages omitted]

Dalai Lama Condolences

BK2205095391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, Wednesday expressed shock over the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, describing him as "a great friend" of Tibetans.

The nobel peace prize laureate, who lives in exile in the Indian town of Dharamsala, also said he was concerned over increasing violence in India, where more than 100,000 of his countrymen live as refugees.

"I am shocked by the killing of your husband. India has lost a great leader and the Tibetans a great friend," the Dalai Lama said in a telegram to Mr. Gandhi's Italian-born widow Sonia.

"The irreparable loss to you and your children is shared by me," he said.

In a separate statement, the Dalai Lama asked Indians to remain calm.

"India is also the land of our gurus and for the Tibetans a sacred land," he said. "I am therefore deeply concerned over the degeneration of the state of affairs in this country."

"I earnestly appeal once again to the people of this sacred land not to let negative emotion overwhelm the qualities of human affection and human wisdom," he said.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after a failed anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet, and heads a government-in-exile in Dharamsala which is not recognised by any country.

President's Message

BK2205021091 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0115 GMT 22 May 91

["Message" to the nation by President R. Venkataraman; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The heinous assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has caused the nation the deepest anguish. Words cannot adequately express our grief, nor condemn this barbaric act. A dynamic and dedicated leader of India has been felled by an act of a coward. This savage act should lead us all to resolve to fight the cult of violence in our public life. Let us all maintain the utmost calm and use this moment of grief to pray for peace in our motherland. I appeal to all my fellow countrymen not to allow passions to overtake them, but strive to maintain peace and order in this hour of trial.

Prime Minister's Message

BK2205021491 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0017 GMT 22 May 91

["Message" to nation by Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar; place not given—recorded]

[Text] We are facing one of the worst tragedies of our national life. A promising career has been cut short at the cruel hands of an (?assassin). We never expected this tragedy to come in such a way. Only our courage, determination to fight the cult of violence can bring us out from this crisis.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi worked for the development and prosperity of this nation. He had his own vision for a new India.

I appeal to our people to be patient. Endurance and courage can only keep us going on the path of peace and also maintaining our democratic structure. Let us not be taken to emotions. I hope the nation will face this crisis with fortitude and we shall come out of these difficulties very soon. Let the whole nation remain united to face the challenge posed by the enemies of democracy and also those who are against all our tradition and cultural values.

I salute the memory of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Political Leaders React

BK2205102891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The minister of state for environment, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, rushed back to New Delhi from a tour of Uttar Pradesh. She visited the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and consoled her sister-in-law, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, and Miss Priyanka [Rajiv's daughter].

The tragedy has shocked the entire nation. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said at the airport that death of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is a grave threat to democracy and they have to face the situation with determination.

The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia, has said the country has lost a great leader. The death of Mr. Gandhi has given a jolt to democracy.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, has described Mr. Gandhi's death as not merely a loss to the Congress-I, but as an irreparable loss to the Indian democratic polity.

The Samajwadi Janata Party has described Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as one of the brightest and bravest sons of India.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo has said the killing of Mr. Gandhi has plunged the nation into a crisis.

The former union minister, Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat, has described Mr. Gandhi's death as the result of a conspiracy to destabilize the country. The governors of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, [and] Goa; chief ministers of Bihar, Orissa, Sikkim, Mizoram and Meghalaya; and the lieutenant general of Pondicherry have also expressed shock over the killing of Mr. Gandhi.

The former prime minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, has described Mr. Gandhi's killing as a very disgraceful act.

The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said the country has lost a young leader in the death of Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Singh, who arrived in Lucknow this morning, has also expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

Several leaders from different parts of the country have rushed to the capital to share the grief with the bereaved family. The mother and sister of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi are arriving tomorrow morning to attend Rajiv Gandhi's funeral. According to family sources, Rahul Gandhi [Rajiv's son] is also reaching Delhi from New York tomorrow morning.

Punjab Spokesman: Prayer 'Answered'

BK2205095891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpts] Undated, May 22 (AFP)—World leaders mourned the man many regarded as a friend on Wednesday as they reacted with consternation to the murder of Rajiv Gandhi.

Many of the tributes said that the killing had deprived India of a leader with a firm vision of the future. But a Kashmiri leader saw the killing as "justice," while a Sikh separatist chief in Britain described it as inevitable. [passage omitted]

But in London, Jaggit Singh Chohan, spokesman for the Khalistan Front which seeks independence for the Sikh-dominated state of Punjab, said: "Everybody has to be sad when a man is killed, but for Mr. Gandhi, as for Indira Gandhi before him, it was a historical inevitability. [no end quote marks as received]

He said "all those who violate the sacred temple die," in a reference to the storming by Indian troops of the Golden Temple at Amritsar which led to Mrs. Gandhi's assassination by Sikh bodyguards.

"I don't believe in bullets," he continued. "But I believe that prayers are a force and this is a response to our prayers." [passage omitted]

Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammed Khan of Pakistan, a country that fought three wars with India since independence in 1947, expressed "profound shock and grief at the terrible tragedy that has taken place." [passage omitted]

Press View Gandhi Killing

BK2205061291 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 0400 GMT 2 May 91

[Roundup of editorial comments from the Indian press]

[Text] DAINIK HINDUSTAN in its editorial entitled "Fortitude in Times of Grief" writes: Nobody had imagined that a plot will be hatched to assassinate the former prime minister and Congress-I president, Rajiv Gandhi. The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi is not a crime against a person, but is an attack on democracy and a sinister attempt to foil the democratic set up. The time is a potent force. Such trials do occur in the lives of nations, but the reason for grief is that the politics of assassination has crept into India. We have to eliminate this. No words are enough to condemn the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The wave of sorrow has not swept only India, it is being felt all over the world. No condemnation is enough for this sin. The paper believes that the need of the hour is to exercise patience and restraint. To be carried away by passion is an unpardonable act.

JANSATTA writes that Rajiv Gandhi was lost forever in a sudden explosion while mingling with the crowd. The explosion deafened us and left us terror-stricken. Curse these barbaric and fearful times which have made us witnesses to the killing of Rajiv Gandhi in a bombing. But this sharply rising flame of venegeance and blind violence should not be allowed turn our country into a netherworld of demons. The question is whether a country where a 47-year old healthy and tender leader and the former prime minister, scheduled to address an election meeting, is assassinated can be called a civilized democracy. The explosion has not only killed Rajiv Gandhi, it has also attempted to disrupt the democratic set up of which we are so proud. What will the largest democratic country in the world ask itself after this dreadful tragedy? The paper adds: This was not the time for Rajiv Gandhi to go. The 21st century, where he wanted to carry the country, is still nine years away. This was the time for him to thrive and prosper and he had to fulfill his pledge to himself and his country. Along with him has died in this bloody explosion the bright prospects for the country's future. His passing has sounded the bell of the dangers posed to our democracy. The heads of all those believing in democracy and future of this country are bowed in shame, fear, and grief in honor of the able son of Mother India and Indira Gandhi.

NAVBHARAT TIMES in an editorial entitled "Frightening Signals" writes that the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi may well be the frightening signal of the death of Indian democracy. He has been assassinated at a time when only one phase of general elections has been completed, in which a frightening picture of violence had emerged, and when the divisive forces within the country are active. Rajiv Gandhi's assasination could greatly destabilize the country and his party. Suddenly the president's role has become much more significant as compared to that of October 1984 [following Indira Gandhi's assassination] because this time a solution to the problems is not that (?easy). The country's biggest party, Congress-I, now faces the question of life or death because its only controller and pivotal personality is gone. The last prime minister of the Nehru family has been assassinated just five days before the 28th death anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru. This is

not an end of a familial tradition, but may be the beginning of a black era in the politics, reminding us of the last days of Mahabharata [the Indian epic]. If the country is able to pull itself together after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, it will be proof of the invincibility of the democratic process for the fulfillment of which Rajiv Gandhi staked his life.

Iran

U.S. Alleged To Fuel Iraqi Helicopters

LD2105204791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] With the revelation of the dreadful tragedy of the Iraqi Army's desecration of the holy shrines in al-Najaf and Karbala', coupled with the merciless massacre of the uprisen Iraqi Muslims in and around the holy shrines of the members of the noble prophet's household, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the religious leader of the Muslims, has declared 23 May a day of public mourning. [passage omitted]

In connection with the further suppression of the Muslim people of Iraq, two painful realities should be considered: one is the treachery on the part of the mass media and enforcement of strict censorship in the United States—the dimensions of the tragedy are not clear despite the passage of a relatively lengthy period since the event; and two, the support of the United States and its allies for the massacre of defenseless Muslims.

Various reasons are being given to justify the fact that the defeated Iraqi Army was left free to massacre the tyrannized Iraqi Muslims. But there is no doubt that the vast scale of the Iraqi Muslims' uprising in the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala', together with the general uprising in southern and northern regions of Iraq, has taken the Ba'thist regime in that country to the verge of collapse. This very reason led to the fact that the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf war rushed to Saddam Husayn's help to prevent the formation of an Islamic government in that country, thus providing the ground for the massacre of Muslims in the holy shrines of al-Najaf and Karbala'.

There are reliable reports that the U.S. Army supplied fuel to the Iraqi helicopters which were engaged in crushing the Muslims' uprising. Hence it becomes evident that the holy shrines were desecrated by the Iraqi Army with the support of the United States. It is on this very account that concern in the Islamic world has now grown to such an extent that the religious leader of the Muslims has declared a day of public mourning in connection with the tragedy.

Commentary Rejects Ties With United States

NC1705204391 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 May 91 p 3

[Unattributed commentary in series entitled: "Who Supports Terrorism?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Syria is one of the seven countries on the U.S. State Department blacklist as a supporter of terrorism. This announcement astonished international political circles, as Syria had joined the coalition in the oil war and had deployed forces to Saudi Arabia. These circles expected the United States to show some leniency, to change its hostile attitude toward Damascus, and at least to remove it from its blacklist.

However, not only was this not done, but the United States even reiterated its previous position regarding this country. The U.S. stance on Syria is especially significant and can prove a valuable lesson to those who support relations with the United States. Some are of the opinion that if we take some conciliatory measures toward the United States, the United States will review its stance and take reciprocal steps. However, the history of the White House has consistently proved the opposite. [passage omitted]

The fact is that the White House will never favor Syria, Libya, North Korea, and Cuba with their present forms of government. Every positive step that these governments might take toward U.S. policies will result in nothing but a weakening of their governments. If the United States ever has friendly ties with these countries, their governments will be toppled, and pawns favored by Washington will assume power. [passage omitted]

We should remain consistent in opposing U.S. antihuman policies, and this is the lesson the Islamic Revolution of Iran wants to tell to all nations and governments. This revolution has resisted a violent propaganda bombardment for 12 years by the archsatan, and did not falter even for a second in its sacred path of condemning enemies who support terrorism and violate human rights.

Therefore, we should maintain this vigilance on our hallowed homeland, and this condemnation should not cease even for a moment. Enemies have constantly reproached Islam, and Muslims have and always will resist such moves.

If the United States has put Iran on its so-called blacklist, for years we have put the United States on the list of the satans. We have even bestowed the title of archsatan on it. The United States is the enemy of mankind, and the real presence behind the massacre of millions of human beings. Muslims have tangibly felt this animosity from the United States with all their being. The hostility of the United States toward the Islamic Republic of Iran as the cradle of the world of Islam is a certificate of pride for our system.

The point worth mentioning here is the error of many individuals who even now believe that it is possible to have reciprocal ties with the United States. The U.S. concept of ties with Third World countries can be defined as unilateral. Washington strives to forge these ties by using various political, military, economic, and propagandist levers and in all cases resorts to threats and persuasion. [passage omitted]

Media Urged To Break Foreign 'Domination'

NC2005180091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
9 May 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It is true that the news moguls of the industrial West, headed by the United States of America, are greedily seeking ways to increase their news and cultural influence throughout the world. As long as the pure feelings of people are geared at ways to bring release from Satan's powers—and this has always been the case—and as long as nations like the Iranian nation are brave and diligent in trying to upset this imbalance in news dissemination on the international scene, there is hope of freeing oneself from the influence of news and cultural imperialism.

In addition to REUTER, AFP, UPI, and AP—which are considered the world's four news giants—there are 120 other news agencies in the world.

These 120 news agencies will be able to gradually increase their limited field of activity by increasing their investments in news dissemination.

The interesting and successful experience of the Islamic Republic's mass media in the Persian Gulf war proves that independent countries are able, even now, to compete with the world's news moguls, at least regarding countries in their area.

The successful experience of Iran's mass media in the Persian Gulf war was actually the most unprecedented news-disseminating activity of an Islamic country in contemporary history. Therefore, it is the duty of all of us and of all the officials in the Islamic Republic's mass media not to allow this successful experience to become the "exception" to the rule.

As a powerful country with the rich and valuable backbone of the Koran and Islam, we have—by starting a divine liberation uprising—opened a new path for the world's oppressed nations. And in the multi-sided war we are fighting against the arrogant world, we should also try to find a basic solution to the confrontation with "news imperialism."

We should not neglect, even for one moment, the fact that if the country's news and information system is controlled from outside then the society will become dependent and hopeless.

It is a reality that people base their judgments on the messages and information they receive. [passage omitted]

We should ultimately, therefore, try to break the domination that the news moguls have over the world. In the initial stage we should try to at least decrease this influence.

In breaking imperialism's news monopoly and censorship there are many basic steps that we, a nation that has been able to inflict numerous unforgettable blows on arrogance through our pitiless struggles, should take. Naturally a new information system cannot be based on haphazard and baseless projects and initiatives and cannot be implemented without extensive research. We do not want to resort to an imaginary generalization and say that we should infiltrate the news markets of Europe and America. This plan will entail immense investments which we are currently unable to undertake.

We should take into consideration our current potential and try to do our best not to be the irresolute consumers of news that is concocted by imperialist news sources. In order to accomplish this, we need to do the following:

A. Gradually expand our news agencies in various parts of the world;

B. Study news that is received from imperialist news sources and hand it over to news experts who are sufficiently acquainted with the propaganda-news ploys used by the arrogant news world for editing, and only then hand it over to the mass media and to the public;

C. Expand our news-disseminating capabilities on the national and regional level, which will be only possible by increasing the number of our news agencies in the said countries;

D. Carry out the following instructions of the lofty leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, made during his meeting with officials of the news and political departments of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran: "The most important issue is for the people to gain the ability to analyze things. I advise those who are involved in political affairs (officials of the news and political sections of the Voice and Vision) to help the people to acquire this ability. If this is achieved, the problems will solve themselves."

Truly, if the Islamic Republic's news and propaganda system is able to arm the people with the ability to distinguish a "propaganda-news" aggression by imperialism when they see one and to be able to discern evil and to identify imperialist ploys, then an extremely valuable and great step will have been taken. This is the only way by which the Iranian nation and the other Muslim nations can be kept immune from the ideological-psychological germs that are being spread and cultivated by the arrogant and Zionist mass media among societies and people.

Western Stand on Relations Denounced

NC1805191091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
7 May 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Unpaid Loudspeakers of the West"]

[Text] One thing that is certain is that the greater hegemonistic powers, especially the Zionists, have the world's largest news-disseminating networks at their disposal and these networks only propagate what is in their countries' interests. In the past decades of propaganda domination, these networks have only disseminated venomous propaganda in society.

One recently published newspapers cited Western sources on the following statement without providing any further explanation or elaboration:

"The Iranian president is seeking contact with the West while using his international popularity against his internal enemies...the undeclared objective of Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with the United States within the next 12 months, prior to the Iranian Majles elections."

The same newspaper cites AP quoting a high-level Iranian official as saying: "An overt opposition exists between the executive branch and the forces outside it in Iran."

In its article on the Islamic Revolution in Iran, THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote: "This revolution has reached the end of its road....The sun set on the revolution when Iran decided to stop exporting it and to shift the emphasis to its domestic problems. The portraits of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, which were a beloved symbol of the Islamic revolution in Iran and caught the world's eye, have been deliberately removed from public view except in government buildings. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has removed clerics who occupied sensitive posts in the Foreign Ministry and from Iran's economic departments and has replaced them with technocrats and educated professionals."

This example of the venomous propaganda by the media of world arrogance aims to project subliminal inclinations on the part of the country's officials for forging ties with the United States, to sow discord among the country's forces, and to instill a sense of disappointment by implying that the values of the revolution have been forgotten and so on.

Is the dissemination of such reports not a means of affirming the desires of the media of arrogance? Is this poisonous propaganda not being carried on without any payment of wages?

The results of such innuendo can be easily seen in the utterances of one Majles deputy who, citing Western sources, said: "In Iran today, moderates and realists have gained the upper hand over the radicals and the hardliners." Accepting this as axiomatic, he then presents the following deduction: "The Western world has always deemed the presence of hardliners and extremist elements and, in their words, the radicals—who are in fact the defenders of the imam's line and the revolutionary values and opponents of Westernization and unhealthy and opulent capitalism in the country and in government departments, especially in the Islamic Majles—as one of the obstacles in the path of normalizing relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

A BBC correspondent in Tehran says, "The interpellation of the education minister is an indication of the opposition to the measures by Hashemi-Rafsanjani to open the Iranian system to the outside world."

As is obvious, such poisonous propaganda does not spare the slightest pretext to harp upon its propagandistic line! BBC links the interpellation of a minister to Iran's ties with the outside world and tries to depict Iran as desirous of getting close to the outside world! What the BBC is really implying is that the West is desirous of leaning toward Iran.

While high echelons in the West have admitted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the important regional powers and its unique position in the Persian Gulf is why all the Western countries are tilting towards it, we see them vying with one another to expand their ties with Iran.

Unfortunately, those who, according to Western criteria, call themselves "radical" and "hardliners" believe this great honor to be a point of weakness and strive to instill pessimism in our society.

As an example, when the West severely cut ties with Iran due to Imam Khomeyni's decree on Salman Rushdie, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not make the slightest change in its stance; however, some simple people were influenced by Western propaganda and put a question mark over the country's foreign policy.

Foreign policy experts are well aware that Britain and all European countries gradually changed their stances and, in fact, some did by 180 degrees at times. Those diplomats who had left Iran in a huff came back with their heads hanging in shame.

What then is the obligation or motivates of those who are acting in favor of the Western propaganda-disseminating media to instill doubt and despondency on the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding its principled stance?!

Velayati Returns From Pacific Trip 22 May

NC2205065491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati returned to Tehran this morning after ending his visit to Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand. He told correspondents that he had held talks with the high-level officials of Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand. They discussed issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations, and important regional and international issues.

The foreign minister added: On the basis of the agreements reached with these countries, we will try to achieve a balance in trade relations, as well as boost the exchange of goods. Mr. Velayati added: Because the Islamic Conference Organization will have two sessions this year, talks on joint efforts and cooperation between Iran and Malaysian also took place.

According to Mr. Velayati, the Iranian-Malaysian agreements in the fields of culture, science, sports, and arts will produce remarkable cooperation between the two Muslim countries. The foreign minister continued: According to the agreements, the number of Iranian students attending universities for specialized courses in Australia and New Zealand will increase.

He said: Iran and Australia have been cooperating in chemical disarmament. Before the next disarmament conference convenes in Geneva, another round of talks will be held. Mr. Velayati referred to New Zealand's earnest campaign against most of the countries who have nuclear weapons, and said: New Zealand is trying to keep these lethal weapons away from the Asia-Oceania region, and Iran supports its efforts.

Pakistani Official Arrives for Economic Talks

LD2005135691 Tehran IRNA in English
1247 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki arrived in Tehran today for a meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization's [ECO] ministerial meeting. In a brief interview upon arrival at Tehran Merabad Airport Zaki told IRNA that the three member states had decided to reactivate the organization in a new lease of trilateral cooperation.

He said the ECO ministerial council would meet in Tehran Wednesday to approve the decisions of the programming commission and to re-start the seven commissions of the organization. The Pakistani official expressed hope that the meeting of ECO ministers in Tehran would help promote joint projects between the three member states and broaden cooperation in the area of science and technology, agriculture and tourism.

Meets President, Afghan Party Leader

LD2105181591 Tehran IRNA in English
1547 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Akram Zaki told Iran's President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani here today that the government and people of Pakistan are interested to see the further development in cultural, diplomatic, and economic areas between Iran and Pakistan. He said his government is hopeful that the joint assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran scheduled for Wednesday will prove beneficial to its three members, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan.

The Pakistani official who arrived here Monday, also expressed hope that Iran and Pakistan would cooperate to rescue the people of Afghanistan from their awkward situation.

In response President Rafsanjani expressed his interest in the broadening of relations between the two countries and observed that the ECO might play an important role to that end.

President Rafsanjani also adverted to the situation in Afghanistan observing that a close cooperation between Iran and Pakistan would prove helpful for solving the problem of the people of that country. He said Iran maintains that the Afghans should be offered the right for self-determination.

In related report, the spokesman of Afghan Islamic Unity Party, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi, along with a small group of the representatives of the party conferred with the Pakistani minister on the situation in Afghanistan here today.

The spokesman of the Afghan party expressed his appreciation to the Governments and peoples of Pakistan and Iran for their hospitality to the Afghan refugees in the two countries. He said the people of his country are after the establishment of an Islamic government in their country and that they would continue their holy struggle until they attain their goal.

Zaki in turn appreciated the struggle of the people of Afghanistan as well as the role of the Islamic Unity Party for solving the issue in Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan advocates the resolving of the situation in Afghanistan by the Afghans themselves, and urges a speeding up of efforts for arriving at a solution acceptable to the people of Afghanistan and to the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, in their second round of talks here today Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Alaedin Boroujerdi and the Pakistani minister emphasized on the need for exploring a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan. They also stressed on the need for a closer cooperation between Iran and Pakistan for resolving the plight of the Afghans.

Holds Talks on Afghanistan

LD2105121291 Tehran IRNA in English
0448 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—The visiting Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Akram Zaki, held first round of talks with Iran's Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia-Oceania Alaeddin Boroujerdi here Monday afternoon, discussing broadening relations and the Afghanistan issue. The Pakistani minister, who arrived here Monday for a ministerial meeting of tripartite Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) grouping Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, emphasized significant role of Iran in settling the Afghan issue. He added, "Islamabad is of the view that a speedy solution to the Afghan issue calls for continuous and serious cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and that the issue will not be settled without Iran's cooperation."

Boroujerdi told Zaki that in view of Iran among the parties involved in the Afghan issue, mujahidin play the most important role and for this same reason Iran did not attend the Geneva meeting where the mujahidin were not present.

According to Boroujerdi a free election is the best way for coming to power of an independent Islamic and non-aligned government in that country. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to assist the Afghan people in attaining this goal,' he added.

Kuwaiti Envoy Invites Nationals To Return Home

LD1505172591 Tehran IRNA in English
0943 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—All Kuwaiti nationals including former political prisoners who fled the country

following Iraq's August 2 invasion of the country can freely return home, said Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran Fawzi 'Adb al-'Aziz al-Jasim here Wednesday.

In a meeting with Foreign Ministry's Director General for the Persian Gulf Mostafa Fumani Ha'eri, the ambassador thanked the Iranian authorities for their hospitality towards the Kuwaiti nationals in Iran.

"The Kuwaiti Government will do its best for an honourable and indiscriminate return of all its citizens including former political prisoners, students of theological schools and others," al-Jasim said.

Earlier, prominent Kuwaiti Alim Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqer- Mohri, a former political prisoner, outlining the obstacles created by the Kuwaiti Government in the way of homegoing citizens, had appealed to Iranian officials to help facilitate free return of all the Kuwaiti nationals.

Cultural Officials Meet Turks in Urumiyeh

NC2105082091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1600 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The cultural officials of Iran's Western Azerbaijan Province and Turkey's Erzurum Province met in Urumiyeh to examine the ways organize tours and broaden cultural exchanges between the two provinces. The cultural officials of Turkey, who are in Urumiyeh for the opening of a trade and industrial products exhibition by a number of establishments in Erzurum Province, welcomed the effort to create the conditions required for organizing tours and broadening relations in tourism.

The meeting also examined the participation of scientists, scholars, and thinkers from the neighboring provinces in scientific, literary, and cultural meetings. Participation of the neighboring provinces in the Koranic recitation competitions was also examined.

Gulf Cooperation Council Praised as 'Realistic'

NC1705074191 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 May 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Welcomes (P)GCC Security Pact on Its Own Terms"]

[Text] 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC], announced on Sunday that the Persian Gulf states are engaged in extensive negotiations with Iran on ways of including the Islamic Republic in a post-war security pact for the region. Talking to reporters at the close of a one-day session of foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member states, Bisharah indicated that the Council had many contacts with Iran on the question of that country's role in the Persian Gulf security pact. The new proposal put fortward by the (P)GCC includes positive points deriving from a realistic outlook which now informs the Council's thinking.

About 2 months ago, when the 6 + 2 security scheme for the Persian Gulf—which was to include the 6 Persian Gulf littoral states plus Syria and Egypt—was proposed, it was anticipated in this column that the scheme would be a short-lived one. The reason for that anticipation, which has been corroborated by reality, was that the 6 + 2 countries could at best guarantee security at the southern coasts of the Persian Gulf whereas Iran, with extensive coasts along the northern section of the geopolitically critical Gulf, would be the only conceivable guarantor of security in the northern section.

Unfortunately the achitects of that scheme had apparently based their proposal on purely ethnic considerations, and had tried to forge an Arabic security arrangement without regard for the real interests of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states or the practicability of the arrangement. As it is, that scheme is now dead and forgotten.

Tehran has reportedly welcomed the new proposal by the (P)GCC, and intensive negotiations are apparently being conducted by the concerned parties. Tehran's tardiness in coming up with a hasty response reflects the intense care with which the proposal has to be evaluated. Past experience has proved that pacts and protocols concluded without adequate expert analysis, turn out to be transitory agreements which soon lose their validity. The latest example of such transitory pacts was the one the "Arab Cooperation Council" concluded and which was signed by Yemen, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

Tehran, however, will no doubt come up with its own terms the establishing of a security system for the region and it is hoped that all regional countries involved will reach agreement eventually and in the best interests of all concerned. [sentence as published]

Trends in Arab League Examined

LD1605150491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0952 GMT 16 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

At the first meeting of Arab League foreign ministers since the Persian Gulf war, which was held in Cairo yesterday, Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, the Egyptian foreign minister, was appointed the new secretary general of the League for the next five years. [passage omitted] According to political analysts, the choice of the Egyptian foreign minister as secretary general of the Arab League indicates that the League is entering a new political era, which will no doubt be stamped more than anything else by the principles of Egypt's foreign policy, the most important characteristics of which are the tendencies to normalize relations with Israel and maintain special relations with America. [passage omitted]

According to political observers of Middle East affairs, Egypt is well placed to guide the political Arab League in a way compatible with the new order that Washington has in mind. This is by virtue of the fact that in the first place, Egypt has a place within the coalition of countries that were victorious in the Persian Gulf war. Second, it is

benefiting from the new political situation arising from the defeat of Iraq, its traditional political rival for the leadership of the Arab world. Lastly, the Cairo leadership enjoys the support of America and its Arab allies.

But if the first responsibility of the new secretary general of the Arab League is to bring about unity among the Arab countries, one cannot foresee that he will be very successful. At any rate, no clear forecasts have been made in this connection.

Generally, the lack of effort on the part of the Arab League is at the root of the internal problems faced by the Arab community and the differences of opinion that exist within the Arab world. Also the League's habit of trying to always cover up problems and quell differences has placed it in a situation where it is constantly carrying and nurturing the seeds of clashes and opposition. This has given rise to new tensions among the League members. [passage omitted]

In any case, according to some political circles, 'Abd-al-Majid does not have the opportunity to attend to the fundamental issues concerning the Arab world, under present conditions. And for him, the essential priority is to extend the Camp David policy simultaneously with the efforts that Secretary of State James Baker is making to bring about a new compromise in the Middle East and to mobilize and realign the Arabs in the new regional order envisaged by America.

Cyprus Government Blamed for Releasing Israelis

NC2005201891 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 May 91 p 11

[Unattributed commentary: "The Price of Spying in Cyprus"]

[Text] Four Zionist mercenaries who had been in custody since last month in Cyprus for eavesdropping on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy telephone lines were released last Thursday after being fined $1,000.00 by a Nicosia court. The case was then declared closed.

The Zionist regime overtly undertook the responsibility of the operation carried out by these four spies and announced that it would do its best for their release. During the past month all the official Israeli staff and diplomats in Cyprus were present in all the various stages of the trial and legal investigations.

The obvious fact is that the efforts of the Zionists to gain information on the diplomatic activities of the Islamic Republic are the best proof of the fact that the Zionists believe that Islamic Iran is the major danger to them. This is only one example of espionage by the Zionists against the Islamic Republic of Iran that has been uncovered. It is not strange for us to assume that similar activities are taking place against Iran's Islamic revolution in other parts of the world as well.

It is not clear, however, why the Government of Cyprus acted so illogically and irresponsibly on this matter and why it showed such indifference to an act that is contrary to all the security and domestic laws of Cyprus.

With the release of the four Israeli spies in Cyprus in exchange for money, the question that rises is: Has the Government of Cyprus not set a price for espionage in that country?

Has the Government of Cyprus not actually set a rate for this ugly act by receiving $4,000.00 from four spies, and has this act by the Cyprus Government, which does not conform with any legal standards, not paved the grounds for more espionage by the Zionists in the small and dismembered island of Cyprus? Has the prestige of the legal system of the statesmen ruling Nicosia not been sold for dollars? These are questions that have not yet been answered by the Cypriot legal system.

Facts show that this issue is more complicated than a mere eavesdropping incidence. It seems that the three-week delay in bringing the culprits to trial and their subsequent release is an organized plan that goes beyond a mere act of espionage against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It calls on the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be even more alert and politically wise than in the past.

Editorial Criticizes Germans, French on Relations

NC2005204491 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 11 May 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Europe's Problem and Political Independence"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The opposition by the United States and the Western countries in general over the official UN intervention in the affairs of the Iraqi refugees and its supervision over the safety zones is an indication of the seriousness of the danger of the long-term presence of the Westerners in Iraq and in the Persian Gulf region. It was this very international organization that approved various resolutions to facilitate Western intervention in the region. It even granted a license for the commencement of the war.

The United States and Britain oppose every resolution which calls for official UN intervention in the safety zones in Iraq because, in the event of such intervention, they would face legal difficulties in implementing their own plans. They only want unofficial UN involvement so they can justify their political-military actions.

The expansion of the safety zone, which until now was limited to Zakho, is being consistently pursued by the West. This can endanger the territorial integrity of Iraq.

The establishment of air bases in Iraq for British and American forces and the Pentagon's admitting to increasing the U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf at a time when they are attempting to create a regional security system tailored to Washington's desires indicates that despite the utterances of the U.S. echelons regarding the departure of the U.S. forces from the region after the 40-day war of the allies with Iraq, the United States is planning a long stay in the region.

The segregation of the Western countries from one another is not possible despite the ostensible differences in their stances. The common interests of the United States and Europe in the region is the real reason behind their coordinated political-military actions. Despite this state of affairs, Europe wants to make known that it follows U.S. policy only within the framework of UN resolutions, and that all its stances are independent. In any case, Europe's performance does not indicate that it is in any way offended by the actions of the West in general.

The actions of Europe and the United States in Iraq, especially in the safety zones, are quite concurrent and in harmony with the political point of view.

Europe has not adopted any position which would indicate that it has taken a different approach than the United States on its approach to the countries of the region. No change can be perceived in Europe's policy regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran: It continues the neutral policy that it adopted at the end of the imposed war. No positive practical stance has been observed on the part of Europe from the visit by the EC foreign ministers to the recent visit by the French and German foreign ministers.

France is a wealthy and strong country which does not have any problems regarding the disbursement of Iran's assets, but it continues to needlessly prolong the talks between the two countries on financial matters. For some years now, Iran and France have been discussing financial issues and in general the disbursement of what France owes to Iran, but these debts have still not been paid in full.

In its capacity as Iran's largest trading partner, in other words, as the greatest exporter of goods to Iran, Germany has not yet honored all its commitments despite having signed economic agreements. It continues to postpone the establishment of a joint commission between the two countries which is the real basis of the mutual agreements.

It is true that the implementation of economic accords needs time but the procrastinating policies of France and Germany in the implementation of accords have overstepped the logical duration of time.

This point should be borne in mind; that in the present era, the fate of agreements is decided within moments as accords announced between two Western countries do not take years to be implemented. The attitude of stalling for time on implementation of accords betrays a reluctance to execute them.

If Europe wants sensible ties with Iran, it should not pursue U.S. policies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Revenues for Non-Oil Exports Cited

LD1505203791 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Some 2.16 million tons of goods worth dlrs 1.3 billion were exported abroad from customs offices throughout the country, last calendar year ending March 20.

"The figure registered a 16.2 percent increase in value and 50 percent in value compared with the year before," said a report released by the head office of the Iranian customs here Wednesday.

Woolen hand-woven carpets, pistachios, copper bars, copper anodes and cathodes, raisins and caraway seeds made up the bulk of the exports. Carpets worth 31.5 billion rials, accounted for 32.5 percent of the total value of the exports, it said.

The report added that 69,000 tons of pistachios worth rials 17.2 billion constituted 18.8 percent of the value of the country's total non-oil exports last year. Copper bars and copper anodes and cathodes were the third major item on the list of non-oil exports, totalling 35,000 tons and worth rials 5.2 billion, it said.

Other exports whose values increased as compared with the previous year were ready-made garments, textiles, synthetic fibres, medicinal herbs, vehicles, tiles, ceramics and porcelain ware, the report concluded.

SALAM Criticized for Disseminating 'Rumors'

NC2005161791 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Rumors!"]

[Text] A new newspaper [SALAM], which unfortunately devotes an important part of its news section to reports it receives from foreign radios, wrote in a column entitled "It Is Said":

"It is said that recently a special envoy visited Iran, carrying a message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. In it, he apparently protested strongly the selection of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni as head of the Iranian pilgrims."

One can justify the counter-revolution and foreign press' publishing such rumors. However, that such news was carried by an Iranian newspaper, which has obtained an official permit from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, is very surprising. The proprietors of that newspaper may say that this news report was not a rumor but that it was a news item without any source!

In order to clarify how false the above-mentioned allegation is, we should refer to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslem Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni's own remarks.

He said the reason for his resignation as representative of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in hajj affairs was at his dear mother's request, and added: "I was truly very ashamed to inform the leader of this decision, and I knew that many rumors would be spread about it. Some say that I resigned because of leftist pressure. Others say that the intention was to dismiss Mr. Karrubi, and that I said I was ready to be selected so that the row would end and someone else would be appointed. There are others who say that Saudi Arabia has put pressure for the resignation. But only God knows that none of these is true."

We should point out one thing to the brothers who published this rumor, hopefully through negligence: Since

the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, one of the most shameful acts has been the publication of rumors without trying to find the source of those rumors.

Rumors such as this cannot be published in columns entitled "It Is Said" without expecting society to be contaminated with the disease of rumor-dissemination and of believing rumors!

Cabinet Supports Khamene'i on Day of Mourning

LD2105161191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Following the important message from the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, concerning the desecration of the holy, immaculate shrines by the Ba'thist forces of the Iraqi regime, the cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement supporting the call for a day of public mourning on Thursday 23 May.

The statement says in part: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its condolences to the holy status of the great remnant of God, may the souls of the two worlds be sacrificed for him [the hidden Imam Mahdi of Shias]; the seminary schools; the Shias; lovers of the Prophet's household; all Muslims and freedom-lovers of the globe for this heart-rending tragedy which—as the eminent leader of the revolution said—is a repeat of the tragedy of 'Ashura [martyrdom of the third imam]. Acting according to the instructions of the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be grieving on Thursday's day of public mourning. It wholeheartedly expresses its appreciation over this call which, is the cry of millions of broken and grieving hearts.

We beseech Almighty God to punish those responsible for this catastrophic and heinous crime and the overt and covert supporters of the criminal Iraqi Ba'thist regime, including America, so that we may witness their destruction and the victory and pride of the oppressed peoples of the world and the oppressed Muslim people of Iraq.

Ahmad Khomeyni on Call To Attract Expatriates

LD2105122791 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Son of the late Imam Khomeyni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, in a meeting here Monday deplored the recent attempts to make the Iranian industrialists, businessmen and doctors abroad to return and take part in Iran's post-war development efforts.

The Persian daily ABRAR Tuesday quoted the son of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution as having said that inviting the fugitive Iranian capitalists affiliated to the former regime to return and participate in the country's economic plans "is in complete violation of the genuine aspirations of the Islamic revolution and the line of the late Imam Khomeyni."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said that the present economic bottlenecks cannot be resolved by a handful of profit-seeking capitalists who fled the country after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam underlined that fighting against capitalism is a fundamental principle in Islam and expressed regret that the Iranian capitalists who have no respect for Islam, the Islamic system the late imam or the leader are being invited to return and make investments.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said, "It is more regretful that they (the economic authorities) keep on repeating that they tread on the line of the late imam."

"At what expense the fugitive capitalists are being asked to return? At the price of losing the Hezbollah and disappointment of the revolutionary forces?" he asked.

The late imam's sons also criticized the recent move by the Health Ministry inviting a group of German-based Iranian medics to come to Iran. "Inviting the doctors who took no step in treating the wounded of the war during the most crucial days of the war, will take no burden off the shoulders of the people."

He told the visitors that meeting with the fugitive capitalists will take back Iran to the pre-revolution era—acceptable to the West. "This is a great injustice to a leader who in all his addresses introduced the West and the U.S. in particular as the enemy of the revolution," he said adding "We must be gravely concerned about tarnishing the line of the imam."

Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli who were in Washington early this month for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank sessions, held a two-day session in New York, with 400 U.S.- based Iranian industrialists, businessmen, bankers and economists.

Later in the month, a group of 170 Germany-based Iranian doctors were invited by the Health Ministry to visit Iran who arrived in Tehran on May 9.

Quake Jolts Fars Province 22 May

LD2205104591 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—A quake measuring 5.4 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale jolted Khonj Larestan, in Fars Province at 4.33 hours GMT Wednesday but caused no casualties.

The Geophysics Center of Tehran University registered the epicenter of the quake 850 km south east of the capital.

Guardian Council on IRGC Law Amendments

LD1605145391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Guardian Council has held a session to debate the bill

concerning employment rules for the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, which has been approved by the Majles, and found a number of its articles in contradiction with the constitutional law.

The Guardian Council, meanwhile, expressed the view that Article 228 of the said bill should be so amended as to explicitly specify that all orders, powers, and arrangements entrusted to persons and offices by the exalted leader continue to be valid. Also the power of the exalted leader in delegating his authority to other persons must be explicitly underlined according to the foot-note to article 110 of the constitutional law.

Careful Government Decisions Needed in Economy

LD2005092991 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday recommended the government to be careful that its economic decisions would not deepen the gap between the moneyed and poor classes.

In its editorial, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote that the Iraq-Iran war and the hasty war-time decisions are the main cause of most economic problems of the country.

The English daily added that as part of the post-revolution policy of centralizing ownership, profit-making firms were confiscated for the benefit of the nation. However, under government ownership they "lost their competitive edge, often their equipment were rendered obsolete, ... And finally their productivity dropped." Topped with poor management, these companies became a pain in the neck and a burden on the the government and "prolonged a parasitic existence by taking money from the government."

The inferior quality of products of some of these firms and their very high prices "set a bad precedent for others to follow," the paper said welcoming the government move in reversing the situation by transferring ownership of the state-owned assets with the exception of strategic heavy industries to the private sector. The move will enable the government to get on with more serious tasks, it added. The paper also lauded the government for introducing incentives to encourage the public to concentrate on exports. Furthermore, "hurdles to investment in Iran by foreign firms have been removed all with the goal of taking advantage of their knowledge and expertise in areas the nation is hard pressed."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL described bringing the private sector into the industry as a good measure saying that in this way the dead money which would otherwise be put in speculative enterprises such as gold and land would be absorbed. "It should, however, be noted that the government may face some difficulties in channelling the private sector's wealth into the industry, since the moneyed class has come to get used to quick, risk-free and large sums of profits and might resist the idea of making long-term investment," concluded the daily.

Pakistan

President, Premier 'Shock' Over Gandhi Killing

BK2205024891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have expressed profound shock and grief over the painful death of Rajiv Gandhi. [passage omitted]

Senate Votes Unanimous Condolences

BK2205091891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] In a unanimous resolution passed this morning, the Senate expressed grief with people and Government of India over untimely death of their former prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The house observed that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was a distinguished politician, who belonged to a very eminent political family and his death would create a void in the political life of India.

The resolution was moved by the leader of the house, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan.

Bhutto Expresses 'Concern'

BK2205084591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0818 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Karachi, May 22 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition leader and former premier Benazir Bhutto offered condolences and expressed "concern" Wednesday over the death of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In a message to Indian caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shehkar, Ms. Bhutto conveyed her party's deep grief to the government and people of India.

"Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's assassination is a cause of concern not only for the people of India but also for all democracy-loving people of the region," Ms. Bhutto said in the message.

Mr. Gandhi had visited Pakistan twice during Ms. Bhutto's 20- month premiership in which relations improved between the two hostile neighbours who have fought three wars in the past 44 years.

Ms. Bhutto was sacked by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August last year and Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party lost elections soon after his July 1989 trip to Pakistan, the first official visit by an Indian prime minister to Islamabad in 26 years.

He had visited Islamabad in December 1988 to hand over the chairmanship of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to Ms. Bhutto who was hosting the organisation's summit.

Ms. Bhutto said "the vacuum created by his assassination would be difficult to fill" as Mr. Gandhi enjoyed "a very prominent position not only in India but also in the world."

The Pakistan senate adopted a condolence resolution and said Mr. Gandhi's death "has created a void in the political life of India."

Earlier President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed profound shock and grief. Mr. Sharif described Mr. Gandhi as "an important and distinguished leader of our region."

Sources in the prime minister's secretariat said that Mr. Sharif may go to New Delhi to attend Mr. Gandhi's funeral.

Kashmir Leader Calls Death 'Justice'

BK2205090791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, May 22 (AFP)—The killing of Rajiv Gandhi was a case of "natural justice," the chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in Pakistan said Wednesday.

"As a human being, I am shocked about it," Amanullah Khan said in a statement, "but there does exist a thing called natural justice."

He rejected speculation that Kashmiri militants could have been behind the former Indian prime minister's assassination Tuesday as he campaigned for re-election.

"To my knowledge, JKLF is not involved," he said. "Such an action could be counter-productive."

Mr. Khan was critical of Rajiv Gandhi's attitude towards the uprising in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Moslem-majority state.

He said the Congress (I) leader had threatened last year to block New Delhi airport if representatives of Amnesty International came to investigate alleged human rights abuses by Indian security forces in Kashmir.

Mr. Khan said Mr. Gandhi's "tragic end was a lesson for those making tall claims of being defenders of human rights and humanitarian values, but who turn blind eyes and deaf ears towards the rape of these very rights and values by Indian forces in Kashmir."

JKLF is one of several militant groups spearheading a secessionist movement in Indian-held Kashmir. Pakistan, which also controls a part of Kashmir, has denied claims by New Delhi that it is assisting in the uprising.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Condemns Gandhi Assassination

BK2205031491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0049 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Colombo, May 22 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Wednesday condemned the assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi as a "barbaric and dastardly act" and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family.

"In times like this, the services of Rajiv Gandhi will solely be missed," a senior aide of Mr. Premadasa quoted him as saying. The killing reminded people of the need for non-violence in public life, Mr. Premadasa said.

Mr. Premadasa's message condemning the assassination and expressing sympathy to Mr. Gandhi's widow and the bereaved family was due to go on national radio later in the morning, the aide said.

Tamil Party Accuses LTTE of Killing Gandhi

BK2205010491 Hong Kong AFP in English 2225 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 22 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil party accused rival Tamil Tiger guerrillas of assassinating former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and said the killing was aimed at destabilising the entire South Asian region.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said it had "no doubt" that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was responsible for the bomb attack which killed the former Indian leader in South India.

"We have no doubt that this is the work of the LTTE. This is the action of forces against stability not only in India but the entire (South Asian) region," EPRLF Spokesman Abbo Yusuf said.

He said a return of Mr. Gandhi to power would have seen the full implementation of a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact which sought to resolve the island's ethnic conflict by securing a rebel arms surrender. [passage omitted]

Tiger activists had been supporting the election campaign of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu used by Sri Lankan Tamils as a safe haven.

Mr. Yusuf said the LTTE tried to show that they were helping Mr. Gandhi's campaign in order to get details of his movements in the state and infiltrate the congress party.

The LTTE repudiated the 1987 peace pact and ended up battling Indian troops ordered to the island by Mr. Gandhi to secure an arms surrender by all Tamil guerrilla groups which had been fighting for a separate state.

Some 1,140 Indian troops were killed by the LTTE which also suffered thousands of its fighters killed in action during the 32- month Indian military presence in the island's Tamil dominated northeast.

The EPRLF spokesman called on Indians to elect a leader who would work towards the ideals of Mr. Gandhi.

Another Tamil group, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) said it could not rule out the involvement of the Tigers in Mr. Gandhi's assassination.

Tamil sources here also said the Tiger guerrillas had the expertise in carrying out bomb attacks.

The Sri Lankan Government has accused the LTTE of carrying out a massive car bomb attack in the capital Colombo which killed State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne on March 2. Tigers have denied the charge.

Northern Naval Patrols Increased

BK2205041491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0350 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 22 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Navy stepped up patrolling the northern coast following reports that Tamil guerrillas may have been behind the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, defence sources here said.

Navy gunboats had been alerted to possible guerrilla movements across the narrow strip of sea separating Sri Lanka from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu where Mr. Gandhi was killed late Tuesday.

"The Navy has been put on extra vigil to look for any boats trying to get in. If the LTTE was responsible, they will try to escape to Sri Lanka's northeast," a defence official who did not want to be named said.

Several politicians in India as well as Tamil groups in Sri Lanka have said that the island's dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was a key suspect.

Tamil guerrillas have been slipping in and out of in Tamil Nadu to carry out attacks against Sri Lankan security forces in the island's northeast where the LTTE is trying to establish a separate state. [passage omitted]

LTTE Denies Allegations

BK2205101191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 22 May 91

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 22 (AFP)—[passage omitted] Several politicians and newspapers in India as well as Tamil groups in Sri Lanka have said that the island's dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was a key suspect.

Almost all Tamil parties here say the LTTE had the motive, the experience and the means to carry out an attack such as the one which killed the former indian premier and 16 others as he attended an election rally.

The LTTE has denied involvement in a brief statement issued by one of its spokesmen based in London.

Spokesman Anton Rajah neither condemned nor condoned the slaying of Mr. Gandhi who ordered an Indian army offensive against the LTTE 10 weeks after the collapse of a bilateral peace pact in July 1987 to end Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka.

Western diplomats here said they suspected that the LTTE may have had a hand in the attack, and that militant Sikhs fighting for a separate homeland in India were also under suspicion. Tigers have been accused of selling arms to the Sikh extremists.

Diplomats noted that more fingers of suspicion from both sides of the Palk Straits which separate India and Sri Lanka were being pointed at the LTTE, although Mr. Gandhi had been high up on a well-publicised hit list of Sikh separatists.

Mr. Gandhi's party, the Congress (I), had accused the LTTE of training and arming rebels of the Dravida Kazhagam (DK), a Tamil party opposed to the Congress (I) in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where the former premier was killed, and contributing to the deteriorating law and order situation there.

"The bomb may not necessarily be an LTTE one. But you cannot rule out an LTTE component in it because of their expertise in the field," a Western diplomat said.

Pressure from [Congress] (I) was behind the sacking in January of the Tamil Nadu state government which supported the LTTE in its campaign against Sri Lankan security forces in the island's Northeast. [passage omitted]

Shocked Congress (I) leaders have begun accusing the LTTE while the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party too has blamed the Tigers. [passage omitted]